FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 081 *26 April 1983*

ARGENTINA

Adds to Nonaligned Document Ignore U.S. Wishes B 1
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 25 Apr]
Ministry Denies U.S. Objection B 1
Police Reportedly Discover Bomb on Falklands B 2
Government Decries Threats [BUENOS AIRES HERALD 24 Apr] B 2
Relatives' Visit Plans Continue B 2
Defense Minister on Possible UK Base on Falklands B 3
Libyan Mission Views Pucara Demonstration 22 Apr B 3

BOLIVIA

Comibol Professionals Agree To Lift Strike C 1
YPFB, Senapa Premises Occupied in Cochabamba C 1
Ortiz on Armed Groups, Communique With Argentina C 1
Roncal on Colombian's Arrest, Domestic Peace C 2
Report on Joint Communique With Yugoslavia [cross-reference] C 2

BRAZIL

Libyan Planes Free To Leave; Arms To Follow D 1
Weapons Described D 1
Information on Crew [JORNAL DO BRASIL 25 Apr] D 1
Ministers' Statements on Affair D 2
Avibras Develops Missiles for AMX Jet Fighters D 3
[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 7 Apr]
New Deterrent Weapon 'Ready' [O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 22 Apr] D 3
Other Weapons Described [JORNAL DO BRASIL 17 Apr] D 4
President's Office Opposes Israeli Missiles D 5
[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 19 Apr]

MEXICO

Opposition Parties Comment on Dialogue With U.S. M 1
[EXCELSIOR 20 Apr]
PSUM, PSD Criticism [UNOMASUNO 20 Apr] M 2
Editorial on Talks [EXCELSIOR 18 Apr] M 2
Cuban Official Blames U.S. for C.A. Problems M 3
Groups Voice Solidarity With Salvadoran Rebels M 3

PANAMA

Referendum Results Could Be Announced Tuesday N 1
Paredes Says Contadora Group 'Will Get Nowhere' N 1
[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 25 Apr]
Noriega on Future Role of National Guard N 2
Havana on U.S. Turnover of Air Traffic Control N 3
Columnist Says Government Bowing Down to Cuba N 3
[LA PRENSA 18 Apr]

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Solidarity Group Voices Support for Nicaragua P 1
Agreement Restructuring Foreign Debt Signed P 1

EL SALVADOR

Paper Interviews Former President Duarte P 2
[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 24 Apr]
Magazine Views U.S. as Roadblock to Peace P 4
[EL SALVADOR PROCESO 21 Mar-10 Apr]
Radio Venceremos Reports on FMLN Activities P 5
Campaign Against Departmental Capitals P 5
Summary of Casualties, Weapons Captured P 6
Fighting at Lempa River P 6
Ambush in San Miguel P 7
Attacks Near Cerron Grande P 7
Usulutan Town Seized P 7
New Victories in Chalatenango P 8
Government Aid Ridiculed P 9
Guazapa Hill Clashes P 9
Havana Radio Reports on FMLN Activities P 10
FMLN Occupies Potonico P 10
FMLN Control of Potonico P 10
Heavy 24 April Fighting P 10
FDR's Ungo Visits Europe P 11
FMLN's Actions in Cabanas P 11

GUATEMALA

National Police Organization Undergoing 'Purge' P 12
Newsmen's Association Official on Repression P 12

HONDURAS

New Revolutionary Group Favors End to War P 12
[Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO 20 Arp]
Handling of Nicaraguan Situation Criticized P 13

NICARAGUA

Ortega News Conference on Military Situation P 15
D'Escoto on Reagan Speech, Regional Issues P 18
Ministry Sends Several Protest Notes to Honduras P 19
Briefs: FRG Donation P 19

CUBA

National Assembly Condemns Attacks on Nicaragua Q 1
Commentary on Salvadoran Minister's Charge Q 1
First Cooperation Protocol Signed With Libya Q 2
Ceremony Commemorates Bay of Pigs Victory Q 2
Lezcano Heads Delegation to Helsinki Meeting Q 3
Marcos Lage Concludes 5-Day Visit to Hungary Q 3
Delegation Arrives in Kabul for Anniversary Q 3
Delegation Goes to Moscow for CEMA Meeting Q 4
Delegation Leaves for UN Conference on Namibia Q 4
Mexican Education Secretary Arrives in Havana Q 4
Departure of Mexicans Q 4

CARIBBEAN

ANTIGUA

ACLM's Hector Arrested, Freed After Libyan Trip S 1

GRENADA

Bernard Coard Attacks Reagan, Defends Airport S 1

ADDS TO NONALIGNED DOCUMENT IGNORE U.S. WISHES

PY251725 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 25 Apr 83 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Argentina Ignores U.S. Complaint"]

[Text] Argentina yesterday submitted two observations to the final document passed by Non-Aligned countries in New Delhi last month, but neither of them meets strong United States demands for Argentina's objection to the document's Latin American section, diplomatic sources said yesterday.

The sources said that one of the observations to the document upholds Argentina's sovereignty over its Antarctic sector. Two articles of the Non-Aligned economic declaration defines Antarctica as a "reserve of mankind" and empowers the United Nations to make decisions concerning the area's future.

The other observation refers in general terms to Argentine foreign policy issued which do not coincide with political stances in the New Delhi document. The observations were submitted a few hours before the deadline for such procedure expired on April 12.

Reports last Friday said that the U.S. sent the Argentine Government a strongly worded statement calling for Argentina to object to the document's Latin American section, but official sources said the demands were not met.

"Tendentious attacks on the U.S., coupled with lack of criticism of the USSR for its numerous violations of the (Non-Aligned Movement) principles strengthens the impression that the Non-Aligned Movement is controlled by countries hostile to the principles of non-alignment and the U.S.," the U.S. statement said.

Ministry Denies U.S. Objection

PY260037 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2326 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Apr (TELAM) -- Argentine Foreign Ministry sources denied today reports that the United States had presented a note to the ministry to convey the U.S. displeasure over the fact that Argentina had not made reservations about the final nonaligned document.

According to reports released last week by local news media, the United States made known its displeasure about the text of the document released at the end of the nonaligned meeting held last month in New Delhi which condemned the U.S. stance on the political and economic situation of developing countries.

Argentine Foreign Ministry sources have stated that there was just a simple conversation between a U.S. Embassy official and Atilio Molteni, head of the Foreign Ministry Department for International Organizations. Our representative did not agree with the U.S. position and San Martin Palace simply took note of it in writing.

The press report claimed that the United States would also convey its displeasure to other Latin American nations which took part in the drafting of the New Delhi document.

POLICE REPORTEDLY DISCOVER BOMB ON FALKLANDS

PY252125 Paris AFP in Spanish 2046 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Text] Port Stanley, Malvinas, 25 Apr (AFP) -- The police disclosed here today than an Argentine boobytrap connected between two cars was found and deactivated by British technicians. The civil police immediately started an investigation and warned the British military units to inspect their vehicles but no other bombs were found.

The highly explosive fragmentation bomb was connected to two jeeps belonging to a British agriculture expert by the fuse and would have exploded when one of the vehicles was put in motion according to police sources.

The scheduled visit to the Malvinas of the Argentine ship "Lago Lacar" with about 50 relatives of the Malvinas war dead as well as four Argentine journalists has created a tense atmosphere here.

Moreover, an alleged cell of the rightist death squadron Triple A has warned the media in Buenos Aires, through telephone calls, that it will kill British diplomats and journalists if the "Lago Lacar" is attacked by British troops bivouacked on the Malvinas Islands.

Government Decries Threats

PY251916 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 24 Apr 83 p 13

[Excerpt] Argentine Foreign Minister Juan Aguirre Lanari emphatically denied that "the Argentine Government was in any way responsible" for the threats received here by two British journalists and one British diplomat. Aguirre Lanari, who was interviewed at Ezeiza airport, admitted that this kind of things "have unfavourable repercussions" abroad. He went on to say that the "Argentine Government is sorry" about the threats received by two London newspaper correspondents and the British charge d'affaires at the Swiss embassy.

Aguirre Lanari added that the trip to the war graves being organized by the Centre of Volunteers for the Fatherland "is strictly private" in nature and that no government aid for the trip had been requested. When queried about the government's attitude if the ship transporting the relatives to the Malvinas is attacked, he said that he "didn't like to talk about hypotheses because these matters are too serious to be dealt with in advance."

Relatives' Visit Plans Continue

PY260239 Paris AFP in Spanish 1819 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 25 Apr -- Six journalists -- four Argentine, one American and one British, will join the relatives of Argentina soldiers buried in the Malvinas (Falklands) who will attempt to travel to the archipelago aboard the "Lago Lacar" ship next Saturday, despite the British refusal.

According to Osvaldo Destefanis, president of the Center of Volunteers for the Fatherland (CVPP), the delegation will consist of 48 CVPP members and of Father Daniel Zaffaroni, who will say mass at sea in case the Royal Navy decides to intercept the "Lago Lacar," a training ship of the Argentine merchant fleet.

Should the Royal Navy intercept us, Destefanis said, we shall return, but I think the Royal Navy will not dare attack us. Furthermore, Destefanis pointed out that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has a great deal of prestige, which she will not want to lose by responding to our peaceful action with gunshots.

DEFENSE MINISTER ON POSSIBLE UK BASE ON FALKLANDS

FY232303 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Argentine Defense Minister Julio Martinez Vivot said that there is an impression that Great Britain is planning to establish an important base on the Malvinas Islands or to lease them under the same terms as Ascension or Diego Garcia Islands.

During an interview granted to a radio station, the minister referred to the visit which a group of relatives of the Malvinas' war dead plan to make to the islands by pointing out that he had no information on how this matter is being handled by the International Red Cross.

He pointed out that the government has not intervened at all since it believes that those persons who wish information about this matter should consult international organizations, the Red Cross in this case. He said that so far the Red Cross has made no reference to the visit to the islands and that it is just an allegation made by Destefanis (who is organizing the visit), and that he could not even prove it since he had no information on the issue. He said that what I do know about it, through press reports, are the conditions established by the British Government undoubtedly aimed at preventing this humanitarian mission from being carried out.

Regarding the alleged establishment of a military base on the Malvinas, Minister Vivot stated that his ministry has no information about this. He said that we have learned about the publication in Great Britain of some classified documents and a report which have shed some light on the issue. He recalled two issues: that Ambassador Ross, in his speech addressed to the UN Security Council, had stated that there was an impression that Great Britain was going to establish an important base on the Malvinas Islands, and that events will confirm this impression.

Ambassador Ross' statements have served as a sound basis to give an answer to those who wonder why the Malvinas war took place. Minister Vivot ended by stating that effectively this is the result of a British design, its colonialist spirit and aggression on the entire American continent.

LIBYAN MISSION VIEWS PUCARA DEMONSTRATION 22 APR

FY230138 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1911 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 22 Apr (NA) -- Military sources stated that the Libyan mission that is conducting confidential negotiations in Buenos Aires traveled from Buenos Aires to Cordoba today to watch an exhibition of the effectiveness and performance of the "Pucara" plane. The mission will also inspect other Argentine-made technical equipment at the air force materiel unit stationed in Cordoba.

The mission traveled on board an air force plane today. Meanwhile, an army spokesman stated that the Libyan delegation has not made any "official" contacts with the Army yet. The spokesman, who at no time denied the presence of the Libyan mission in the country, stated that "there will not be any trouble" if the mission wants to make an official contact with the Army.

COMIBOL PROFESSIONALS AGREE TO LIFT STRIKE

PY260227 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Apr 83

[Excerpts] In a letter addressed to the leaders of Comibol [Mining Corporation of Bolivia] professionals, Mines Minister Carlos Barragan urged them to lift their strike and recommended that they return to work as soon as possible. The minister proposes to continue paying the same amounts for professional bonuses drawn in October 1982 in addition to a compensatory bonus established in the 8 January agreement.

It was learned during the past few hours that Comibol technicians and professionals have decided to lift the strike in response to the minister's and president's request. In a document addressed to Minister Barragan Comibol professionals disclosed their decision to lift the strike and accept the proposal made by the mines minister. With a mutual agreement reached by the Mines Ministry and Comibol technicians the problem has thus been settled.

YPFB, SENAPA PREMISES OCCUPIED IN COCHABAMBA

PY251610 Paris AFP in Spanish 1533 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Excerpts] La Paz, 25 Apr (AFP) -- Today, the oil workers union of La Paz occupied the office of the general manager of Bolivian Government Oil Deposits (YPFB) and it prevented YPFB'S general manager Enrique Mariaca from entering his office. The union also asked President Siles Zuazo for Mariaca's resignation.

YPFB is the second most important firm in Bolivia after Comibol (Mining Corporation of Bolivia), which is currently occupied by the mineworkers. It was also reported that the Sole Federation of Peasant Workers of Cochabamba, located in the central part of the country, occupied offices and property of the Municipal Water Board Senapa. The peasants stated that the property will be used for cultivating crops and building houses. High-ranking Senapa officials stated that the occupation in arbitrary and that it will affect a far-reaching sanitary project designed to benefit the Cochabamba community.

ORTIZ ON ARMED GROUPS, COMMUNIQUE WITH ARGENTINA

PY220336 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] Defense Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado termed reports on actions by irregular armed groups in Santa Cruz as mere speculation, adding, however, that dragnet operations are being carried out. On referring to the visit paid by Argentine Defense Minister Julio Martinez Vivot, Ortiz Mercado stated:

[Begin Ortiz recording] Judging from the results, the visit has been very positive. I will prove this by reading out the joint communique signed in Santa Cruz last night at the end of Argentine Defense Minister Julio Martinez Vivot's visit. The communique is specific proof of the progress made in the bilateral relations with our brotherly neighbor. Joint communique:

Following the meetings held from 18 to 20 April 1983, the Argentine and Bolivian defense ministers express and make known the following:

1. They assert that the democratic system is the most adequate system for the political development of the two countries.

2. They agree that it is necessary to eliminate both rightist and leftist terrorism in order to preserve the democratic system.

3. They express satisfaction with the progress made in bilateral relations, and they are committed to furthering them within the framework of a continuing dialogue, mutual respect and nonintervention in the domestic affairs of their countries. [end recording]

Further on the document signed between the two state dignitaries says, quote: In keeping with their responsibility for the civil defense of their respective nations, the ministers commit themselves to give technical cooperation to each other. Argentina will continue to give aid to Bolivia in order to resolve the problems Bolivia is experiencing as a result of floods and droughts, unquote.

The document also states that Argentina will supply Bolivia with (Meilitz) bridges in order to resolve Bolivia's isolation problems. The document provides for mutual support for the claims of the two countries over the Malvinas Islands and over Bolivia's sea outlet. In conclusion, Defense Minister Ortiz Mercado stated the following in connection with reports on actions by irregular armed groups in Bolivia:

[Begin Ortiz recording] I believe that the reports are speculative. The pertinent organs and the 8th army division are investigating and carrying out dragnet operations. The results of the intensive investigation are not known yet. [end recording]

RONCAL ON COLOMBIAN'S ARREST, DOMESTIC PEACE

PY240055 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Interior Minister Mario Roncal Antezana disclosed that (Roberto Seifort) has been arrested. The minister pointed out that (Seifort), who cooperated with President Luis Garcia Meza's regime, will be expelled from the country charged with illegal residence in the country and for carrying forged documents.

The minister pointed out that it appears that (Seifort) is a Colombian citizen according to the documents he carries but investigations are being carried out in order to determine the origin of his Bolivian documents which could have been obtained during Garcia Meza's dictatorship.

The minister also disclosed that investigations will also be carried out to determine the origin of a press report revealing a plan for political crimes.

Minister Roncal Antezana ended by stating that peace prevails throughout the country with the exception of the problem caused by the occupation of the Mining Corporation of Bolivia (Comibol) by a group of mine leaders.

REPORT ON JOINT COMMUNIQUE WITH YUGOSLAVIA

For a 15 April Belgrade TANJUG report in English on the joint communique signed during the visit of Vidoje Zarkovic, member of the SFRY Presidency, see the Yugoslavia section of the 26 April Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT, page I 3.

LIBYAN PLANES FREE TO LEAVE; ARMS TO FOLLOW

PY260159 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Planalto Palace Spokesman Carlos Atila stated this morning that all the war material found aboard the Libyan planes was transferred to Brazilian planes and taken to Ponta Pelada Airport for identification and evaluation.

Toward the end of the afternoon, Atila reported that the cargo will be returned to Libya on a date yet to be stipulated.

[Begin Atila recording] We have to come to an understanding with Libyan diplomatic personnel to return the material at an opportune time, but it is my opinion that it will be as soon as possible. It is well known where the material came from. As to the manufacturers, the material includes equipment manufactured in the USSR, Czechoslovakia and the United States.

We believe that based on the remarks of the Libyan chief of state himself indicating that due to the negligence of a Libyan official Brazil was not included in the request for permission to overfly it and not informed that the cargo's contents consisted of weapons, there will be no change in the relations between the two countries.

They can take off at any time. They have been authorized to leave and the planes have been turned over to their Libyan crews, who have inspected the planes, which are in operational order. If they are still there, we are not responsible. [end recording]

Weapons Described

PY251550 Paris AFP in Spanish 1506 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Brasilia, 25 Apr (AFP) -- By 0900 (1200 GMT) today, Brazilian aeronautics authorities had yet to receive flight plans for the four Libyan airplanes that were detained at the Manaus and Recife airports more than a week ago for carrying arms for Nicaragua.

The make of the material unloaded from the four planes is still officially unknown, but Air Force sources who had the opportunity to oversee the unloading operations said that the cargo is made up of obsolete Czechoslavak, U.S. and Soviet military equipment. They added that the material is made up of antiaircraft machineguns, multiple rocket launchers, five tons of aerial bombs and a large quantity of hand grenades, explosives and various types of ammunition.

Information on Crew

PY260310 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 25 Apr 83 p 9

[Excerpts] Recife -- Three crew members of the Libyan Hercules C-130 plane speak Spanish. Two taxi drivers and an employee of the Boa Viagem Hotel, where the Libyans are staying, heard them speaking fluent Spanish. The Colombian Government has reported that members of the M-19 guerrilla movement had gone to Libya for training purposes and that they could have returned on board these planes.

The Colombian ambassador in Brasilia, German Rodriguez Fonnegra, stated last night that this government has absolutely no information about the presence of Colombian citizens as members of the Libyan C-130 crew but would be very interested in investigating this report.

A Federal Police source believes that the documents could be "forged" despite the fact that they are in Arabic and that only their professions are given in English. The crew members are identified as Milad Bashif Smanof, Mohamed Alashan, Mohamed Backsh, Mahamed Ghuarib, Marmud Trug, Abdul Rzagi, Mohamed Shelg, and Kenneth Oliver Nowel Price, an Irishman identified as the "pilot."

The Brazilian Government has not received any report on the presence of Colombian guerrillas among the crew members of the Libyan planes being detained in Manaus and Recife and would have no way of identifying them since it has not received any clues or the names of these individuals, presidential spokesman Carlos Atila said last night.

The 47 crew members are regarded as Libyans for all intents and purposes according to the papers they presented, Atila said. He added that the Brazilian Government was not concerned about the crew members, but exclusively with the irregular cargo the planes were carrying.

Ministers' Statements on Affair

PY260208 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Text] Brasilia -- During a meeting that they held with government bloc congressional leaders, Aeronautics Minister Delio Jardim de Mattos, Military Household Chief Rubem Ludwig and National Security Council Secretary General Danilo Venturini explained Brazil's position regarding the weapons-carrying Libyan planes that are being detained at the airports of Recife and Manaus.

Minister Rubem Ludwig explained that Brazil's position is based exclusively on the Chicago Convention. He added that no date has been set for the return of the weapons, but it is Brazil's intention that they be returned as soon as possible.

The national president of the PDS [Social Democratic Party] has stated that Brazil cannot become a bridgehead for the arms race in Latin America.

Senator Jose Sarney participated in a meeting today with Minister Rubem Ludwig, Danilo Venturini, Delio Jardim de Mattos and Saraiva Guerreiro, who gave a detailed report on the Libyan planes to the leaders of the government bloc in Congress. The senator said that the detention of the planes was a firm decision that the government took in defense of national sovereignty.

The chief of the military household has stated that the cargo of the four Libyan planes is made up of heavy equipment and that it was most probably going to be used for a special type of operation. Rubem Ludwig has also confirmed that there are plane parts among the cargo, the inventory of which has not yet been completed.

AVIBRAS DEVELOPS MISSILES FOR AMX JET FIGHTERS

PY221745 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 7 Apr 83 p 2

[Text] Sao Jose dos Campos -- The AMX subsonic fighter and ground fighter aircraft that will be manufactured by Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] jointly with Italian companies will be equipped with the new medium range air-to-ground missile being developed in Avibras Aerospacial [Brazilian Air Space Aviation Company] headquartered in Sao Jose dos Campos. The missile, with a range of 10 km, will have a TV guidance system through which the pilot will be able to guide it toward targets such as tanks and warships. The other project under study by Avibras is the medium-range air-to-air missile for air combat guided by radar. In addition to equipping the AMX fleet that will serve the Brazilian Air Force [FAB], the two new missiles will also be intended for export.

"None of the national enterprises like ours has the technological capacity to develop the equipment for the AMX," Avibras commercial director Pedro Vial stated yesterday, and added that this company is already supplying the Aeronautics Ministry with the current lines of military and defense material -- missiles, rockets and bombs -- for Xavante airplanes, and will very soon also supply materiel for the T-27 military training turboprop planes.

According to Vial, 90 percent of the current Avibras production is earmarked for foreign markets, a factor which gave it tremendous impetus during the past 2 years as shown by the enterprises's figures: half of the 500 million cruzeiros earned in 1980 was obtained from exports; in 1981, exports reached 90 percent of a total of 4.9 billion cruzeiros. In 1982, Avibras earned 7 billion cruzeiros. Although the data is kept secret, it is known that the enterprise expects to at least double its earnings in 1983. "The Middle East countries are our main markets today," Vial stated.

New Deterrent Weapon 'Ready'

PY230337 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Apr

[By Roberto Godoy]

[Text] A Brazilian deterrent weapon -- devastating and unpredictable for the enemy -- is ready, hidden in an inconspicuous concrete building adjacent to the Via Dutra highway in Sao Jose dos Campos. To enter the area, one must first go through a tight security system at another building located a few kilometers away.

The scene one finds inside the building is impressive: under a strong light, three huge aggressive-looking armored vehicles bearing the color and the symbols of the Army are permanently surrounded by test evaluation teams busy computing the data on the tests conducted during the week at the Gericino-Marambaia testing ground in Rio de Janeiro.

All this is taking place around the "Astros II" Integrated System created by the Avibras Aerospace Company for defense and attack missions through saturation fire. The achievements of this project went beyond the initial expectations since for the first time in the world it was possible to combine an electronic fire control unit with the missiles of various calibers, ranges and multiple warheads, all of which can be controlled simultaneously.

It has great firepower. A combined salvo of three missiles can drop 1,800 kilograms of explosives, either antitank, antipersonnel or incendiary bombs, on one or more targets located within a radius of 70 kilometers. The time required for a complete launch is 16 seconds.

"This is a classical tactical weapon which is normally used to change the course of events on a battlefield. Yet in view of its flexibility, precision and unpredictability, we may conclude without fear of being mistaken that the Astros II is a non-nuclear strategic weapon in South America," a military attache from a country of the Southern Cone has told O ESTADO and JORNAL DA TARDE in Brasilia. This opinion is shared by another attache of a country locat . north of Brazil, who contended that the new equipment is undeniably a deterrent element capable of causing a possible invader to give up the idea in view of the risks involved."

This was in fact a bold project developed on the basis of an idea of Joao Verde de Carvalho Leite, an engineer and the president of Avibras. The system basically consists of six or seven launcher vehicles that were the project of an Avibras subsidiary, Tectran. Mounted on the first unit is a container with the fire control unit (which can coordinate the firing of up to eight launching units) which is interconnected to a minimum of four multiple launchers mounted on one vehicle each and supported by two more vehicles as ammunition bearers. This battery can move as far as 600 kilometers on the road without refueling or 400 kilometers on any other terrain, with a maximum weight per armored vehicle on the order of 10 tons and maximum speed of 100 kilometers per hour.

Once in the theater of operations and once the target positions have been determined, the fire control unit fires a missile for test purposes. The missile travels three-fourths of its route and destroys itself. The computer establishes the course and projects it from beginning to end, corrects its variations and sends data for adjustment to each launcher vehicle. The artillery soldier can monitor this data through a digital panel, which is also part of the firing mechanism. Once adjustment have been made and the operation executed, the group rapidly moves to a resupply point to prepare another charge. It takes only 8 minutes from the time the trucks are parked until the launching is over.

There is nothing comparable in Latin America, not even in Cuba, whose armed forces are equipped with the Soviet BM-21, which is a descendant of the "Katyusha" model used during World War II. This model has little mobility, limited range but a good carrier, the ALS-14, which can carry 46 kilograms of high-powered explosives as far as 15 kilometers. Each truck carries 40 rockets. On the international front, the Astros II is also better than the U.S. system (MRLS), the German (LARS), the French (Rafael), the Italian (Firos-25) and the South African-Israeli (ARS-127).

Other Weapons Described

PY221855 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 17 Apr 83 p 22

[Excerpts] Sao Paulo -- Engesa (Specialized Engineers Inc) and Avibras (Brazilian Aviation Company), Brazil's largest arms manufacturer, report that in the first quarter of 1983, Brazilian arms exports exceeded those of the first quarter of 1982.

Avibras,whole sales abroad account for 90 percent of its total sales, is developing a series of missiles and expects to export a sophisticated integrated defense system in 1983.

Avbras' research department has developed an entirely local technology, ranging from missile and rocket fuel -- the composite [given in English] (a solid fuel of high yield, considered to be one of the best in the world) -- to the Integrated Defense System (SIP), which involves the coordinated operation of radars and remote-controlled missiles that can be installed in any country, both for defensive and offensive purposes. Upon detecting the presence of the enemy in the area where it is operating, the SID warns the armed forces and launches missiles which begin searching for the invaders. The SID is highly sophisticated. Its technology has been developed by the team headed by Avibras President Joao Verdi, who is actively engaged in the project.

This year Avibras will begin building South America's largest rocket, bomb and missile manufacturing plant in Lorena, in the Paraiba River Valley.

Engesa is devoting priority attention to the development of a new tracked combat vehicle, whose first prototype will be tested in mid-1984. This new vehicle, which is the pride of Engesa President Jose Luis Whitaker, has several new features which make it a modern vehicle suitable for operation in any country. Still in 1983, Engetronica (enterprise associated with Philips' Brazilian branch) will be producing laser night vision devices and automatic firing systems.

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE OPPOSES ISRAELI MISSILES

PY230103 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Apr 83 p 5

[Excerpt] Brasilia -- Itamaraty has recommended to the Navy Ministry that it not conclude negotiations with Israel for the purchase of Gabriel missiles for the Navy's fighting units since this could jeopardize the large trade volume existing between Brazil and the Arab countries. The report was obtained yesterday from military sources, which noted that a decision -- which has not yet been made -- to buy the Israeli missiles would be based entirely on its technical advantages.

Navy Chief of Staff Adm Jose Calvente Aranda said yesterday that Brazil is a sovereign country and therefore is entitled to buy whatever it wants to buy, naturally after weighing the pros and cons. He said the choice of the Gabriel missile was made after a year of studies which took strategic and technical aspects into account since Israel would transfer the technology to our country, which is not done by other countries such as France, for instance, which sells its Exocet missiles, but as though they were in a black box. He added, however, that a consensus could be reached to buy other types of missiles if these were in the best national interests. Yet, he said, this consensus will have to be reached by Brazilian officials, never imposed through pressure by other countries.

Since Brazil has the "know-how" to build missiles, a military officer said, it would be much better for us to acquire that technology. He added that there was no preference for any particular country, but for the technical effectiveness of the equipment. He noted that Itamaraty's recommendation will further delay a decision as to what type of missiles will be purchased.

OPPOSITION PARTIES COMMENT ON DIALOGUE WITH U.S.

PA260006 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 20 Apr 83 pp 14-A, 15-A, 16-A

[By Roberto Gonzalez Perez]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, the opposition political parties described as "positive" the open dialogue between Mexico and the United States to settle their differences. The parties noted that regardless of the diplomatic, commercial and financial pressures that preceded the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, the U.S. attempt to force Mexico to change its foreign policy on Central America failed.

Gonzalo Altamirano Dimas, spokesman for the National Action Party [PAN] said, "there is no doubt that Mexico and the United States play an important role in the pacification of Central America and that it is more important to resolve the problems through dialogue because the crisis affects the United States as well as Mexico."

Meanwhile, the leftist United Socialist Party of Mexico [PSUM] and the Popular Socialist Party criticized the Washington envoys for saying that U.S. economic support will benefit Mexico. The leftists claimed that it is an old U.S. tactic "to lure us into a trap" in order to separate us from our natural allies, the developing nations. The Mexican Democratic Party, however, said that the dialogue will be positive to the degree that it eliminates misunderstandings.

PAN spokesman Gonzalo altamirano Dimas said that Mexico can speak with the United States openly and basically in response to the interests of our country and to its principles since only "through respectful and objective dialogue can we resolve our differences; an aggressive policy cannot be the answer."

Nevertheless, PAN reiterated its position that Mexico has followed a mistaken, nonpeaceful foreign policy because it has committed itself to supporting one of the belligerent groups "thereby causing us to be confronted by some of the hegemonies." After noting that rapprochement with the United States is positive as long as it observes mutual respect and recognizes the nation's independence and sovereignty, the party pointed out that in commercial matters, there can be no equal treatment between unequal forces.

Meanwhile, through its spokesman Francisco Ortiz Mendoza, the Popular Socialist Party said that the visit of Shultz and two other U.S. secretaries has been one of the strongest pressures that Mexico has endured in recent years for the purpose of encouraging Mexico to change its foreign policy on Central America closer to neutrality or to the U.S. side. "We are convinced," Ortiz Mendoza said, "that Washington's envoys failed."

He indicated that Mexico is on the side of the developing nations and that the U.S. objective is to lure us away from that sphere. The spokesman warned that the Mexican Government should be careful not to trust the United States. He described the Mexican position on its foreign policy as vertical, patriotic and progressive.

Meanwhile, Gumersindo Magana, president of the Mexican Democratic Party, said that any dialogue is positive, even between enemies. He affirmed that the rejection of nonviolence in Central America is incorrect since the causes of such area violence should be disapproved.

PSUM, PSD Criticism

PA250146 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 20 Apr 83 p 5

[Editorial: "Criticism of Shultz' Visit"]

[Text] The United Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM) released a communique yesterday criticizing the fact that during the meeting between U.S. and Mexican officials, the problem of the undocumented workers was not raised and the Simpson-Mazzoli law was not discussed. This law seriously harms the human and labor rights of the Mexican migratory workers. At the same time, the Social Democratic Party [PSD] indicated that the envoys of Ronald Reagan "had the ill-concealed mission of pressuring the government of Miguel de la Madrid to change Mexico's attitude toward Central America."

The PSUM communique also stated that the Mexican Government should demand from the U.S. Government preferential treatment on tariffs and trade, and stressed that Washington's imposition of duties on our exports reveals the U.S. attempt to establish equal reciprocal terms with Mexico, although the development of the two countries is different and unequal. The PSUM also criticized the fact that the U.S. economic recovery is being linked to a possible solution of Mexico's economic crisis, because national development must be founded on internal bases.

For its part, the PSD noted that Reagan's envoys -- Shultz, Regan, and Baldrige -- have come to revive the big stick policy and continue the pressures that the United States has maintained on Mexico. "The presence in our territory of a delegation made up of Treasury Secretary Donald Regan, Secretary of State George P. Shultz and Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige is an insult to the government of Miguel de la Madrid, because they are taking advantage of Mexico and trying to impose their course on the policy of solidarity and nonintervention that Mexico has advocated."

Editorial on Talks

PA222143 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 18 Apr 83 p 6A

[Editorial: "Mexico Has a Set Course"]

[Text] The third Binational Commission talks of our country with the United States have started. Three of President Reagan's key chess pieces have arrived for the talks: Secretary of State George Shultz, Secretary of Commerce Malcolm Baldrige and Treasury Secretary Donald Regan. They will meet with Bernardo Sepulveda, Hector Hernandez and Jesus Silva Herzog.

In the past, relations between the two presidents usually started on good terms, with the first move made by the Mexican president. And although the relations ended up harmed by circumstances and by the clash of interests and outlooks, a change of power in this country or in the United States, and the personal friendship of the presidents would bring fresh air [to the relationship] and resolve many points of disagreement, making cordiality prevail again.

The speed with which events in the two nations and all the world occur; the strife-torn situation in Central America; and the return, in some aspects, of Washington's policy of force regarding Latin America have now led the White House -- President Miguel de la Madrid's tact notwithstanding -- to maintain a harshness toward Mexico with no real cause. This harshness occurs only because our country maintains its banner of dignity in foreign policy and its humane position in cases such as those of El Salvador and Nicaragua.

U.S. power circles mistakenly believe that the current Mexican president will change his course in international affairs and will act in a way convenient to its neighbor. This is absurd. Mexico has set a course and relies on the patriotism of its presidents so that the course will not be changed. For no reason, this has troubled some retrograde mentalities in the past, some of the many such minds that the friendly U.S. people have to endure.

CUBAN OFFICIAL BLAMES U.S. FOR C.A. PROBLEMS

FL231731 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0354 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- A Cuban official, Hector Rodriguez Llompart, accused the United States today here of intervening in the Central American conflict as part of an unbridled arms policy.

At the conclusion of the sixth meeting of the Mexican-Cuban Joint Commission for Scientific and Technical Cooperation, Rodriguez Llompart, minister president of Cuba's State Committee for Economic Cooperation, said he feels that relations between Mexico and Cuba have remained intact despite singularly difficult times since 1974.

He stressed that the international policy of detente had been interrupted by the U.S. Government, which is attempting to achieve an illusory arms supremacy to subjugate the world by means of the law of the big stick. That policy of confrontation, threats and covert actions, Rodriguez Llompart said, have lead to a shameless intervention in Central American and Caribbean nations.

He agreed with the Mexican thesis that the origin of the problems in that region is the unbearable conditions of economic, political and social oppression, which is why those peoples lack all types of freedoms.

The sixth meeting of the Mexican-Cuban Joint Commission took place from 19 to 22 April in Mexico, resulting in agreements for the exchange of students on scholarships and the signing of 84 cooperation projects.

GROUPS VOICE SOLIDARITY WITH SALVADORAN REBELS

FL222110 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2004 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 22 Apr (Notimex) -- Mexican political and social organizations have demonstrated their solidarity with the fight being waged by the Salvadoran people, condemned the assassination of Commander Ana Maria and expressed sorrow over the suicide of the top leader of the insurgents in that country, Salvador Cayetano Carpio.

At the U.S. Embassy in this capital, leaders and members of several organizations, such as the Latin American Federation of Journalists (FELAP) and the unions of the National Autonomous University of Mexico and the National Polytechnic Institute (IPN), warned the Ronald Reagan administration that Mexicans will fight alongside their brothers if the United States invades Central America.

The country's newspapers carried an advertisement today signed by 38 political, trade union, social and cultural organizations and 126 prominent Mexicans warning that now is not the time to break down, but the time to grow and fight. The signers of the advertisement, entitled: Still in Solidarity With the Salvadoran People, expressed sorrow over the events which occurred in Managua.

The 38 organizations and the 126 signers warn that the enemy has a powerful propaganda machine available and will spare no efforts to undermine trust, smear the image of the Salvadoran revolution and promote apocalyptic visions of internal struggles. The advertisement calls for clearing the air since the Salvadoran people are aware that their revolution is in no danger despite the treachery of a few.

REFERENDUM RESULTS COULD BE ANNOUNCED TUESDAY

PA250456 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Text] The results of today's referendum may be announced on Tuesday. The Electoral Tribunal was pleased with what it described as the heavy turnout at the polls and the high civic spirit of the people during the referendum to decide on the amendments to the 1972 Constitution. Cesar Quintero, president of the Electoral Tribunal, said that the polls were closed at 1700, and that the voting was orderly, peaceful, efficient and clean. The magistrate explained that there were a couple of isolated incidents, such as the replacement at certain voting centers of the "yes" ballot with one of the same color and size that contained a series of social and political protests. The situation was detected and measures were taken, but the votes cast with this type of slip will be considered null.

Meanwhile, Dr Quintero reminded the communications media that the suspension of the political campaign on the referendum will continue until tomorrow at noon. He also said that the Electoral Tribunal has had 10 telephones installed, one for each province and the one for the San Blas area, as well as a processing system to count the votes. The national electoral board that will be installed tomorrow will be responsible for announcing the official results of the referendum, which could be made public on Tuesday.

PAREDES SAYS CONTADORA GROUP 'WILL GET NOWHERE'

PA251633 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 25 Apr 83 pp A-1, A-10

[Text] General Ruben Dario Paredes, commander in chief of the National Guard, said yesterday that the "Contadora Group" is not going to achieve anything without participation by military leaders, including those of the revolutionary groups. Paredes was approached by national and foreign reporters as he prepared to participate in yesterday's referendum, durin which he made a tour of various points of the city and of the country's interior.

Paredes announced that he will retire as chief of the armed institution in December of this year, but he refused to comment on the possibility of his presidential candidacy. Paredes repeated that only God and the people could determine whether he will be a candidate for the presidency of the republic.

Referring to the "Contadora Group," Paredes said "it is a good initiative, but in my opinion, it will get nowhere." The Contadora Group was created in January by ' Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela and Panama for the purpose of promoting a dialogue and negotiations among the Central American countries. It has met in Panama in recent weeks, along with making a rapid tour of the affected countries in the area.

General Paredes stated that the group "has healty, sound intentions, but it will achieve nothing unless it includes the leaders of the armies that are fighting the revolutionary forces and the leaders of those revolutionary groups."

"Once this is achieved and all of them sit down at the table, then the Contadora Group's intention will become a reality. For the time being, however, I do not see any solution," the military leader noted. The "Contadora Group" held meetings in this capital on Wednesday and Thursday of this week, but reached no agreements.

There were separate meetings with each foreign minister, after which they all agreed to meet again in May.

Referring to the referendum, General Paredes expressed pride and his conviction that "today we have a new fatherland and a new country." "We have been improving as the years have passed, but the rest must be done by the Panamanian people," he said, shortly before casting his vote at the Monte Sinai school in the Belisario Porras community in San Miguelito. Paredes, who was accompanied by his wife Elvira, his sons Ruben and Amed, some relatives and members of the National Guard General Staff, was applauded by his supporters.

"The vote of each Panamanian carries in itself the power and the right of those who cannot yet vote" -- the youngsters and children -- he said, referring to a conversation he had with a pretty 10-year old girl, whom he described as having "beautiful eyes." The girl, named Marlene, asked him at El Valle de Anton to vote for her, which the National Guard chief promised to do, commenting on the message contained in the peasant girl's request. "The people are feeling hope and optimism, which will produce a positive effect on the economy and will reduce unemployment and other social problems," he noted.

General Paredes was accompanied by Col Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of staff, Colonel Cecilio Fisher, G-1, Lieutenant Colonel Alberto Purcell, G-5, Lieutenant Colonel Elias Castillo, G-3; and Lieutenant Colonel Leonidas Macias, chief of the 11th military area, all of whom were accompanied by their wives and other members of the National Guard.

Before heading for the "Monte Sinai" school, he greeted some National Guard members, friends and supporters at the Tinajita garrison, seat of the First Infantry Company, commanded by Captain Federico Olechea. "We want to tell the humble people that we know they have pressing needs, but that we must also muster the necessary force and hopes to solve all of our problems within a climate of peace," the military leader pointed out.

The "Belisario Porras" community was pleased with his visit and welcomed him with warmth, according to a communique released by the National Guard public relations directorate.

NORIEGA ON FUTURE ROLE OF NATIONAL GUARD

PA251854 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Interview given by Colonel Manuel Antonio Noriega, Panamanian National Guard Chief of Staff, to Luz Maria Noli at the Monte Sinai school polling station in Panama City on 24 April -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] General Paredes has just announced that he will be head of the National Guard until the end of the current year. What does this statement and the new constitution imply for you, who will logically become the next commander in chief of this country's Armed Forces?

[Answer] The Armed Forces have a great mission to carry out, a mission with projections to the year 2000, when Panama will assume full control of its canal, which must be kept neutral, open to all nations and secure by our Armed Forces' professional standard. Therefore, from that moment on, our institution takes on its greatest mission, which requires constant improvement in its ranks.

[Question] My question, however, relates to the new Constitution and the National Guard's new status, including your assumption of the position of commander in chief, within the limitations imposed by the new Constitution on the armed institute.

[Answer] The new Constitution involves the planning for the National Guard, having opened the way to a true democracy, within which the National Guard will carry out its functions for the security and defense of the nation. Security involves its participation with the people in the great development programs and its role as liaison between the communities, to prevent conflictive differences among the various groups of our national community.

HAVANA ON U.S. TURNOVER OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL

PA212213 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Effective Sunday, Panama will have total sovereignty over its airspace as U.S. control over this sphere concludes. The United States controlled Panamanian airspace for 33 years. This Panamanian victory is included in the 1977 canal agreements signed by General Omar Torrijos and U.S. President James Carter, in which a transition plan was established to turn over responsibilities for air traffic control.

COLUMNIST SAYS GOVERNMENT BOWING DOWN TO CUBA

PA182002 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Apr 83 p 8C

[From the "In a Few Words" column titled: "Accusation"]

[Text] In Friday's LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, Carlos Alberto Montaner [Cuban exile journalist] made very serious cnarges against the Panamanian Government. Montaner said that he heard from "the highest-ranking government officials...the most adverse and hostile opinions about Managua's Sandinist Front...." "However, officially the Panamanian Government plays the Sandinists' game. Why? An embarrassed minister gave me the best explanation: for fear of Havana's reprisals."

Montaner added: "A meeting was held in Cuba between three of the key men in Panama and the two Cubans directly responsible for subversion in Central America, Manuel Pineiro and Osmani Cienfuegos. A brutal thing was left clear: Panama will not be destabilized if it does not oppose the Cuban-Soviet foreign policy and if it continues to ignore the unceasing conspiratoral comings and goings of the Cuban security forces in the isthmus. If Panama were to change that policy, it must be prepared to face the consequences."

This is what we have always suspected. We have achieved the miracle of having the two empires that confront each other everywhere in the world protect the Panamanian regime in exchange for onerous geopolitical concessions. But one truth is obvious: Such is the weakeness of the process and such is the cowardice of its leaders that they bow their heads in the face of any political bullying even if they have to drag us to the region's bloody whirlwind.

COSTA RICA

SOLIDARITY GROUP VOICES SUPPORT FOR NICARAGUA

PA232330 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] The Costa Rican Committee of Solidarity with the Peoples [Comite Costarricense de Solidaridad con los Pueblos -- CCSP] has demanded that the Reagan administration immediately stop the war of aggression openly carried out against Nicaragua through Somozist mercenaries, trained and financed by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, and the Honduran Army.

In a communique released in that capital, the committee added that the Honduran Army troops' constant provocations against Nicaragua must also stop and that the U.S. lackeys and mercenaries must be taken out of that country since they are only serving to spearhead that imperialist nation's reconquest plans.

The committee also denounced the hypocritical and demagogic attitude of those who were born in the area by accident, but who feel, think, breathe and behave according to Washington's instructions. Unfortunately, the committee document concluded, there are many such individuals in Costa Rica. They are usually found working in communication media owned by millionaires and in ministries; they include others who previously held ministerial posts, said the Costa Rican Committee of Solidarity with the Peoples.

AGREEMENT RESTRUCTURING FOREIGN DEBT SIGNED

PA251606 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] An agreement that restructures our $1.6 billion foreign public debt was signed this afternoon by (Ulrich Maxen), deputy chairman of the Bank of America and representative of the commercial creditor banks' coordinating committee; and (Rodolfo Silva), who is renegotiating the debt for Costa Rica, in the board of directors' room of the Central Bank.

The government and the creditor banks' coordinating committee are to sign a convenant restructuring the foreign public debt in May. The agreement signed this afternoon will have to be approved and ratified by each of the 170 banks, as well as by the executive branch authorities and the legislative assembly. The agreement states that Costa Rica will pay overdue and current interest to these institutions before 31 December 1983. Payment will be backed by $225 million in revolving credit that the banks will grant to finance imports. This credit will be amortized over a period of up to 3 years at an interest rate that is 13.4 percent over the London interbanking rate [LIBOR]. The country will thus update its payment of interests as of January 1984.

As for payments on capital that become overdue in 1983 -- a total of $515 million -- they will be restructured with a 4-year grace period and 4 and 1/2 years of amortization. The first payment of capital will be made on 31 March 1987 and the last on 30 June 1991.

The payments on capital that become overdue in 1984 -- a total of $140 million -- will also be restructured. Their amortization will begin on 31 March 1988 and will conclude on 30 June 1991.

In accordance with the interest rates prevailing in the financial markets, the restructured part of the debt will be at 21.4 percent over the LIBOR or 21.8 percent over the preferential U.S. rate.

The rest of the debt to the banks, corresponding to the payment of capital that will become overdue in January 1985, will maintain the maturity dates and interest rates that were established in the original contracts.

Commenting on the agreement restructuring the foreign public debt (Silva) said: [Begin (Silva) recording] It is a very important step for us, but it is hardly the end of the road. The understanding reached represents the basis of an agreement that, as I said earlier, must now be legally drafted so that a covenant can be signed.

This is the end of the road in a way, from the standpoint of renegotiation of the debt. In June 1982 we began meeting with the Committee of New York banks, which led to the resumption of the payments on our foreign debt, which had been suspended for 10 months under the previous administration. When we took office in May we grew very concerned about this situation. In June we met with the bank representatives in New York and offered to make partial payments on the interest, or what we called a provisional payment plan, based on a formula that took into consideration a percentage of our foreign currency revenues from exports, as well as a percentage equivalent to the capital revenues that the country might obtain on a medium and long term basis. This was done religiously during the second half of 1982. I think that this was an important step for the banks, for it must be acknowledged that the banks also have internal problems, involving auditors, superintendents, reviewers and comptrollers, who are scrutinizing their financial status and asking them to build reserves due to bad accounts, as they call them. Our partial payment on the interest symbolically represented the government's determination to begin to meet its obligations. Financially, it also meant that the situation reflected in their books was slightly better.

Meanwhile, the Costa Rican Central Bank, led by Dr Castillo, made important advances in stabilizing our economic and financial situation, including stabilization of the monetary and exchange policy, with very satisfactory results, and achieved an agreement with the IMF, which was approved by the IMF board of directors in Washington on 20 December.

Finance Minister Dr Federico Bargas also made strong efforts to reduce the fiscal deficit and to increase our revenues. Very reluctantly -- but it has to be done -- he adjusted the public service rates, eliminated subsidies, reduced expenses and introduced tax reform. In short, a number of draconian measures were adopted, which the patient needed to recover its health. In December we also reached a very important agreement with the banks: Approval of a (?revolving) credit system to finance imports. [end recording]

EL SALVADOR

PAPER INTERVIEWS FORMER PRESIDENT DUARTE

PA252201 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 24 Apr 83 pp A-1, A-18

[Report by Claudio Herrera Jr on an interview with Jose Napoleon Duarte, presidential candidate of the Salvadoran Christian Democratic Party for the 1983 elections, on 17 April in San Salvador]

[Excerpts] [Question] What is the Salvadoran Army's current situation?

[Answer] At this point, the army's position needs to be reorganized; its commanding bodies must be readjusted. There is a crisis of command, a crisis of authority. This makes it necessary for the army to restructure itself.

[Question] Is the Salvadoran Army demoralized by the guerrilla's blows?

[Answer] There is no doubt that there is some erosion. There is no doubt that there has been some weakening. The problem is that they do not have a trustworthy leader. The army needs strategic unity, unity of command.

[Question] As a result of badly designed strategies, the army has been defeated. The Americans claim that the Salvadorans ignore U.S. advice. Is this true?

[Answer] Due to what I would describe as stretegic error, the army has been dealt blows in the last 6 months, there is no question of that. This is what I was referring to a while ago: The army has been designed with a political rather than a technical-military outlook. As a result, the advisers suggest technical actions, but they come up against political structure.

[Question] How can you find some trustworthy element within the army to be your running mate in the election?

[Answer] We must first remember that the army is an institution. As such, it has its own characteristics. Like the church, the army is basically a disciplined institution. The important thing, therefore, is to acquire authority from a trustworthy source so that this authority can penetrate the military structure. The only means of achieving this is through an electoral process in which the people generate the power. The president can then structure an armed force, which, through discipline and verticality can fulfill its mission rather than the way it has been done; with horizontally oriented actions, where discipline and verticality have been lost. This is exactly what we are witnessing right now.

[Question] You said that in the last 6 months the army has had failures. In this an admission that the guerrilla movement is winning?

[Answer] No, no. I think that the guerrilla movement has also had defeats. However, we cannot ignore the fact that the armed forces' actions have not been as successful as they should have been and that from a strategic standpoint, a comparison of the two strategies is unsuitable. When the guerrillas tried to go from guerrilla warfare to a war of positions, particularly in Morazan, it failed. It has been confirmed that the army dislodged them from the entire area. It can't be said that either one is defeating the other, but rather that the two strategies are independent.

[Question] It is rumored that Mr d'Aubuisson is receiving huge military aid from several Arab countries. Is this true?

[Answer] What happened was that during his campaign Mr d'Aubuisson said he would solve the country's economic problems and that the Arabs has offered to lend him $500 million to solve the country's problems. That did not occur. That was early last year.

[Question] Are any peace talks currently underway with the guerrilla leaders?

[Answer] That would fall to the government but the government has already said that is has nothing to negotiate. The foreign minister himself has said that they are not willing to hold a dialogue. This is the government's position. Other sectors, particularly the Christian Democrats, have a position different from that of the government.

[Question] Should you come to power, would you initiate or seek talks with the guerrilla leaders?

[Answer] Since my days in the junta, I have always said -- and this is nothing strange -- that sincere dialogue is the path. I do not mean a dialogue to see what one could get to the detriment of the other, because that would not solve the problem. This dialogue would have to have three objectives: First, the awareness that violence is not the way to achieve power; second, that democracy is the instrument of the people's representativity; and third, that the important thing is to correct the country's social errors rather than to obtain personal benefits. I think that the positions held by both the government and the guerrilla movement preclude any solution prior to the elections. I think that the elections will be a determining factor in the peace process and that this topic will be discussed in the elections.

[Question] Concerning the Contadora agreement, what immediate effects did last week's meeting have?

[Answer] When foreign sectors concerned over the nation's problems try to have some effect on it, viewpoints are always exchanged. The problem, however, is not what these countries will do, but rather what the Salvadoran people will do. Everybody has spoken from abroad to pressure the governments, but only one person has spoken here; the pope, who spoke about peace to the people the rest is in line with Kissinger's theory that in order to solve the Afghan problem the United States and Russia had to hold talks, or that in order to solve the Vietnamese problem, China and the United States had to talk. This is similar to what several countries are suggesting. They want to solve the problem among great powers and forces in order to influence or impose solutions on the country and the people. They will not solve anything that way. They are wrong.

MAGAZINE VIEWS U.S. AS ROADBLOCK TO PEACE

PA251920 San Salvador EL SALVADOR PROCESO in Spanish 21 Mar-10 Apr-83 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "No Way Out"]

[Excerpts] The penetration into Nicaragua by over 2,000 counterrevolutionaries from Honduras and the expansion of destabilizing actions against the Sandinist regime, including the economic embargo by the Reagan administration, speak of new levels of tension in the region and render the possibility of ending the conflicts that are bleeding the area dry even more remote. At the same time, these developments entail an increase in the degree of U.S. military involvement here.

The debate in the U.S. Congress adds to the already drawn-out debates on the $60 million in additional military aid for the Salvadoran regime that Mr Reagan requested in early March. Up to this moment, the committees that have voted on the matter have approved the funds, but with strings attached. One had even demanded that its conditions be met before it votes for approval. The strings attached to approval demonstrate the growing lack of confidence in the president's policy toward the region and the fear that it will lead to growing levels of U.S. military involvement.

The fact is that, in the case of El Salvador, the "war, with the advanced elections," seems to be doomed to failure. Militarily speaking, the setbacks that the armed forces have suffered at the FMLN's hands and the pressures from U.S. advisers to reorganize them and shuffle their high command are eroding the insitution and detracting from its competence.

Apparently, neither the appointment of the various committees that compose the organization that will set the new military plan into motion in Usulutan and San Vicente nor the progress toward the establishment of a military training school in Honduras can make up for the severe blows that the Ramon Belloso Battalion and other military units have suffered in the last few weeks. It is also doubtful that the murder of revolutionary leaders like Melida Anaya Montes in Managua will weaken the FMLN's military strength and the political growth that it has demonstrated in the last few months.

Politically speaking, the relative openings that have been made to satisfy U.S. demands and to obtain aid -- such as the probable amnesty, the surrender of military personnel accused of murder and other crimes to the courts, the release of political prisoners and the steps to reopen the National University -- albeit positive, seem changes in appearance only and fall short of generating a real process of democratization when viewed against the increase in roadblocks, the raids and the searches, the endless reports about the disappearance of people and the political murders, the campaigns to intimidate the press and the attacks on the Church.

The obvious technical and legal deficiencies at the Central Elections Council, the almost complete paralysis in the work to draft the constitution by the Constituent Assembly and the differences that the advancement of the elections has generated among the Apaneca Pact parties point to the fact that improvisation will be the keynote in the elections, thus disqualifying them from the outset as a solution to the nation's problems and detracting from them as a process of democratic participation.

Within this context, neither regional peace efforts nor the efforts to settle our nation's problems through dialogue seems to have much chance of success. The escalation of U.S. interventionism and the U.S. preference for military solutions are preventing El Salvador and Central America from finding a way out of their problems.

RADIO VENCEREMOS REPORTS ON FMLN ACTIVITIES

Campaign Against Departmental Capitals

PA221828 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] Attention. We report that in the framework of our "Commander Melida Anaya Montes, we swear to win" military campaign, our military units of army and militia have received orders to sabotage the oppressors' war economy. Our forces have successfully begun these sabotage operations, causing the dictatorship millions in losses.

Within our sabotage plans we are going to stage incursions into the departmental capitals, especially in eastern El Salvador. Therefore, we call upon the residents of the departmental capitals to be alert. When our forces enter the capitals, the residents must remain calm, so as to prevent innocent victims. We ask the departmental capitals' inhabitants to cooperate with the FMLN combatants when we stage incursions.

We also announce that in the next few months, our army and militia units are going to sabotage the cultivation and harvest of coffee, cotton and sugarcane. Those products are the main exports that produce the country's foreign exchange, the dollars that the dictatorship and the puppet army desperately need to survive on the face of our forces' advance.

We also announce that the cultivation and harvest of basic grains will be respected by our forces, because these are the food of our people.

Sabotage is the people's weapon against the dictatorship! No more dollars to finance the genocide!

Summary of Casualties, Weapons Captured

PA221931 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] In the initial months of 1983 we have been able to disarm more than one of the puppet army's battalions. In only 3 months we have been able to snatch 1,232 rifles away from the enemy. These were 1,232 rifles sent by Ronald Reagan, 1,232 rifles that are now in the hands of the militias and of the new combatants that are joining the FMLN.

In only 3 months we have seized 64 support weapons, including mortars, light cannon, machineguns and grenade launchers, from the dictatorship.

In only 3 months we have inflicted more than 1,700 casualties on the puppet army. We have inflicted more than 1,700 casualties, including officers, NCO's and soldiers.

Finally, in only 3 months, we have captured 622 prisoners of war, including officers, NCO's and soldiers, on the battlefields.

Fighting at Lempa River

PA230424 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] New victories for our people: This time the report comes from the Francisco Sanchez Eastern Front in northern San Miguel Department. Here is the report:

Following orders from the FMLN General Command, and within the framework of the "Commander Ana Maria, We Swear To Win" military campaign, FMLN forces belonging to the Adalberto Diaz detachment carried out an operation called "Long Live the Eighth Anniversary of the Triumph of the Vietnamese Revolution" at 2000 on 20 April. This operation consisted of our entry into Nuevo Eden de San Juan, located in northern San Miguel Department on the border with Honduras. The fighting lasted until 0400 on 21 April.

The enemy appeared at 2200 on 20 April. The troops were coming from the Sensuntepeque Garrison and were trying to cross Lempa River, but they were detained by our blocking forces that were positioned on the river banks. The enemy was forced to ask for more reinforcements, and to close the floodgates of the 5 November Dam in order to recover their dead and wounded from the river and make a new attempt to cross it.

Our forces withdraw in an orderly fashion at approximately 0500 on 21 April. The results of this operation were the following: 35 enemy dead or wounded and 4 enemy prisoners of war. The following war materiel was recovered: 6 rifles, 1 .30-cal machinegun, more than 3,500 cartridges and other military supplies.

Regarding our side, we are sorry to report the heroic death of our companero (Tarcisio Menjivar). This operation was led by Commander (Camilo Turcios). United to fight to the final victory! Revolution or death, we will win! This report is signed by Commander (Miguel Mendoza).

Ambush in San Miguel

PA230427 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] We now have a report from the southeastern front: At 1330 on 21 April, our forces ambushed three vehicles carrying troops of the 3d Infantary Brigade headquartered in San Miguel. The ambush was carried out in La Puerta, San Miguel Department. Fighting was very heavy and lasted for 30 minutes.

Our forces killed three and wounded many. The FMLN units were led by Companero Danilo. We received this information from Companero Ruben. Our people advance, the enemy retreats!

Attacks Near Cerron Grande

PA230450 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] From heroic Chalatenango, from the northern area of the Modesto Ramirez Central Front, our companeros have reported that at 0200 on 22 April FMLN units attacked an enemy company of the Sierpe Battalion stationed in Potonico, Chalatenango Department. The enemy units were occupying positions in the higher areas close to Cerron Grande. As of 0600, our companeros had reported recovering the first few weapons and capturing some prisoners of war after heavy fighting. They have seized 11 G-3 rifles, 36 M-16 rifles and 1 7-mm machinegun. They were holding seven prisoners of war, including a cadet.

Our Chalatenango companeros also reported that heavy fighting continued today in an effort to annihilate the enemy company. At the same time, our FMLN forces were engaged in fierce fighting with the enemy reinforcements sent from Cerron Grande, 1 km from the site of the attack. This new operation that is being carried out victoriously is called "New Victories Will Strengthen Our People's Unity," and is within the framework of our campaign "Commander Ana Maria, We Swear To Win."

We received this information from Commander (Dimas Rodriguez), chief of the northern front. Forward companeros of the northern front who are victoriously fighting the forces of the dictatorship everyday! The present is struggle, the future will be ours!

Usulutan Town Seized

PA240412 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] Another military report that has reached Radio Venceremos indicates that, as part of the "Commander Ana Maria, We Swear To Win" military campaign, on Thursday 21 April at 2300 militia units seized the town of Mercedes Umana in Usulutan Department, where they proceeded to sabotage the enemy infrastructure. They destroyed the municipal building and the Antel [National Telecommunications Administration] offices. After carrying out the sabotage actions, our companeros withdrew without any problem.

That same day, sappers blew up a tower near Mercedes Umana, leaving a large part of the country's eastern region without electricity. This operation was led by Companeros (Bernardo) and (Gilberto). Commander Ana Maria, we swear to win! Onward with our national campaign of sabotage!

New Victories in Chalatenango

PA242240 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] From heroic Chalatenango, a territory of combat and new victories, Commander Dimas Rodriguez, chief of the northern front, reports on the development of the operation "New Victories Will Strengthen Our People's Unity," which is being conducted within the "Commander Ana Maria, We Swear To Win" military campaign.

We have briefly reported that the operation consisted of an attack on a company of the Sierpe battalion at Cerro de las Cabras and Eo Cerron, loated near the Cerron Grande Dam and the town of Potonico in Chalatenango. The report said the operation began at 0200 on Friday, 22 April. By 0300 FMLN forces had occupied 50 percent of the positions, and by 0530 the positions at Potonico, including the garrison command post, and the positions at El Cerron had been occupied. Fighting continued 1 km from the Cerron Grande Dam, concluding at 1100 as the enemy fled in a disorderly manner, leaving a large amount of war materiel.

During the fighting, at 1000, a Cerron Grande force appeared, but it was quickly repelled by our forces, which recovered several weapons after killing eight soldiers and wounding three.

This revolutionary action was carried out using 81-mm mortar fire against the Cerron Grande Dam installations. This forced the enemy to reinforce the garrison with troops from the Cabanas battalion and the Sierpe battalion from Chalatenango, and with intense machinegun fire in the morning and afternoon. This reaction was totally ineffective, however, as it did not inflict a single casualty on our ranks or prevent us from carrying out the planned actions.

As result of this victorious action, our forces recovered 1 60-mm mortar, 36 M-16 rifles, 9 G-3 rifles, 4 M-79 grenade launchers, 1 M-60 machinegun, 1 7-mm machinegun and 9 U.S.-made mines removed from the minefield protecting the enemy positions. In addition, we seized a large amount of ammunition and captured 7 members of the attacked company, including 1 cadet, after inflicting approximately 30 casualties.

This was the result of the victorious operation in Chalatenango as reported by Commander Dimas Rodriguez, chief of the northern front who, in another communique, revealed that this revolutionary action has again shown the inability of the genocidal army to stand up to our forces.

We all know that last week in its confusing propaganda the genocidal army of the Magana puppet government released a report claiming to have evicted the guerrillas from Cerron Grande during a cleanup operation by thousands of army troops. [passage indistinct] Only 6 days afterward, we have shown the entire world that our guerrilla forces in Chalatenango are present precisely at the strategic site of the Cerron Grande Dam installations, which are of vital importance for the generation of the nation's electric energy. [Words indistinct] have been incapable of holding out for even 30 minutes to reinforce the attacked positions, even though they took place right on the site of the installations.

Onward companeros of Chalatenango. In greeting you, we join you in reiterating our slogan that new victories will strengthen our people's unity. Our people are also convinced that new victories bring us closer to the final victory.

Government Aid Ridiculed

PA250240 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Excerpts] In late 1977 and early 1978, when the armed forces began to launch their so-called counterinsurgency and cleanup operations with the participation of thousands and thousands of soldiers against our farming areas, our country began to experience the dramatic phenomenon of mass migration.

Current United Nations Office of High Commissioner for Refugees figures indicate that there are 500,000 Salvadorans living abroad as refugees, and that in El Salvador there are approximately 100,000 who are homeless. Only one fifth of the refugees and homeless are in the country.

The drama of the homeless, as a direct consequence of fascist terror in the urban and rural areas, is now being used by the dictatorship to show its charitable side. In recent days local radio stations have begun a campaign centering on the problems of the homeless who, according to the local radio stations, are homeless because of the war waged by the FMLN.

They are now talking about government programs to feed and provide jobs for the They have even created a so-called commission for the homeless. Does the dictatorship really believe that the Salvadorans are naive? Does it believe that with some used clothes distributed among these people, our people will forget the massacres at the Sumpul River in Chalatenango and Mozote in Morazan, and the bombings in Meanguera, San Fernando and Berlin? Does the dictatorship believe that by distributing cans of lard that are made in the United States it can justify desperate requests for bombs and missiles that are also made in the United States? Does the dictatorship believe that with the story of employment programs for the homeless they can fool our people, when the dictatorship has not been able to solve the chronic unemployment problem that is affecting our country since it became a country?

No, fascist gentlemen, the Salvadoran people have already made a decision; the decision to win. Then, and only then, will the thousands of old people, women and children return to their land, a land that you fascist gentlemen forced them to abandon with your terror. Our brothers will return to sow the land, but the land of free homeland.

Guazapa Hill Clashes

PA252230 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Text] Our people continue advancing while the enemy withdraws. Some 3,000 soldiers of the dictatorship are carrying out an operation on Guazapa Hill. So far, they have obtained no results. Last night, 23 April, our forces harassed enemy positions in (Palo Grande), a strategic high point on Guazapa Hill. As part of our plans against the enemy in this zone, our companeros carried out a night raid on the (Palo Grande) position, killing one enemy and wounding several.

This morning, 24 April, enemy troops, supported by a heavy aerial attack with bombs, tried to raid our roadblocks near El Salitre and El Rodeo. However, their efforts proved useless. We made them withdraw and caused the dictatorship 11 casualties. Three of our men were slightly wounded. Commander Melida Anaya Montes, we swear to win!

HAVANA RADIO REPORTS ON FMLN ACTIVITIES

FMLN Occupies Potonico

PA240454 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Salvadoran military spokesmen have confirmed that FMLN guerrilla commandos occupied the town of Potonico, Chalatenango Department. During the occupation more than 10 soldiers were either killed, wounded or taken prisoner by the rebels. The army also lost a large amount of war materiel.

According to Radio Venceremos, official voice of the FMLN, during the first 3 months of 1983 the rebel forces inflicted more than 1,700 casualties on the enemy and recovered 1,200 rifles and 74 heavy weapons.

FMLN Control of Potonico

PA251421 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] The Salvadoran rebels are still in control of Potonico, a town in Chalatenango Department, which they occupied last Friday after approximately 7 hours of fierce fighting. The FMLN guerrillas inflicted over 30 casualties on the regime's forces. Some 200 troops were sent to the area as reinforcements by the Salvadoran dictatorship, in an effort to stop the rebels' advance, fearing that they would seize the Cerron Grande and 5 November hydroelectric plants, which are only a few kilometers from Potonico. In other actions, the rebels caused 35 casualties to the Army in a clash in El Nuevo Eden de San Juan, San Miguel Department. The guerrillas reportedly control new stretches of the coastal highway in this region.

Radio Venceremos reported that the revolutionary forces are sabotaging economic centers of importance to the Salvadoran dictatorship and oligarchy. According to other reports, newly appointed Defense Minister Gen Eugenio Vides Casanova has said that the Salvadoran military forces are facing their most critical moment and accused former defense minister Jose Guillermo Garcia of a lack of ability to fight the guerrillas.

Heavy 24 April Fighting

PA252023 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Text] Violent clashes between army troops and guerrilla forces occurred Sunday in the Salvadoran departments of Cabanas and Cuscatlan, as well as a few kilometers from San Salvador. The results of these clashes are not yet known. An early morning artillery duel took place near San Jose las Flores, north of San Salvador. This caused great alarm among residents in the area, as well as in Apopa and Tonacatepeque.

Another violent clash occurred in the foothills of Guazapa Volcano, which the Salvadoran Air Force bombed. Meanwhile, the insurgents ambushed a company from the Atlacatl Battalion on the outskirts of Ilobasco, in Cabanas Department. The company was a part of the reinforcements that the dictatorship led by Alvaro Magana sent to stop the rebel advances for fear that the FMLN might seize the Cerron Grande and 5 Novemeber hydro-electric dams. This military operation is also intended in dislodge the guerrillas occupying Totonico, located a scant 5 km from Cerron Grande, where the insurgents inflicted over 30 casualties on the regime's troops, which included the special Sierpe Battalion.

FDR's Ungo Visits Europe

PA252150 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Here are statements by Guillermo Ungo, president of El Salvador's FDR, in Stockholm, Sweden. First, Ungo mentions the objectives of his visit to Sweden: [Begin recording] We attended the Socialist International congress in Albufeira, Portugal, with Salvador Samayoa, member of the FMLN-FDR Political-Diplomatic Commission.

Later, we visited Paris to meet with representatives of the political parties and the government. We have also come to Stockholm to explain our view on the situation and to try to maintain permanent and updated relations. We also want these governments to get involved in a permanent effort regarding the situation in Central America and El Salvador. [end recording]

Concerning his talks with Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, Ungo said: [Begin recording] We met with Prime Minister Palme and with the foreign minister and deputy foreign minister. We explained our view on the situation: The situation is critical and acute due to increasing U.S. intervention in the region and the continued aggressions against Nicaragua through the U.S. agencies' overt and covert operations. We also explained the increasing deterioration of the Salvadoran Government and Army and the continued, increasing advances of the FMLN at the military level and of the FDR at the political level.

We discussed the prospects and the importance of continued Swedish involvement in the form of initiatives and positions favorable to a dialogue which might lead to a negotiation and a political solution in El Salvador. We found the Swedish Government to be cooperative and consistent in its position. We don't believe that Sweden would remain indifferent to those initiatives that might encourage a political solution in El Salvador. [end recording]

FMLN Actions in Cabanas

PA252223 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Text] Violent clashes between army troops and guerrilla forces occurred today in areas of the Salvadoran departments of Cabanas and Cuscatlan as well as only a few kilometers from San Salvador. The results of these clashes are still unknown.

Near San Jose de las Flores, north of San Salvador, an artillery duel took place in the early morning hours. This caused great alarm among the townspeople as well as among the residents of Apopa and Tonacatepeque.

Another violent clash occurred in the foothills of the Guazapa Volcano, an area that was bombed by the Salvadoran Air Force. Meanwhile a company of the Atlactl Battalion was ambushed by rebels on the outskirts of Ilobasco, Cabanas Department. This Atlacatl company was among the reinforcements that the dictatorship, headed by Alvaro Magana had sent in an attempt to stop the rebels' advance. The regime fears that the FMLN will occupy the Cerron Grande and 5 November Dams. With this military operation the dictatorship is attempting to dislodge the guerrillas occupying Potonico, located only 5 km from the Cerron Grande Dam, where the rebles inflicted more than 30 casualties on the army troops that include the Sierpe special battalion.

GUATEMALA

NATIONAL POLICE ORGANIZATION UNDERGOING 'PURGE'

PA260151 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1921 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 25 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- In the past few days the Guatemalan authorities have replaced some 20 officers and an undetermined number of policemen, some of whom have been turned over to the special courts, it was learned in Guatemala City today. This action was taken in the framework of a purge of the Technical Investigations Department [DIT] of the police, which replaced the Judicial Police Corps, a repressive organization of civilians that saw a lot of action in the past.

The purge began 10 days ago with the dismissal of three high-ranking DIT officers, including Angel Alberto Cruz, former chief of the Guatemalan section of the International Police (Interpol). He was placed at the disposal of the special courts that recently sentenced more than 15 persons to death. The majority were accused of guerrilla activities.

In DIT circles it was said that the reorganization is wideranging, especially regarding the "untouchable" agents of previous administrations. Among those who were replaced are agents who actively fought the urban guerrillas.

NEWSMEN'S ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL ON REPRESSION

PA250326 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] (Agustin Byron), president of the Association of Democratic Newsmen of Guatemala, has said in Mexico City that because of the brutal repression unleashed by the Guatemalan regime in the past 5 years, 60 Guatemalan newsmen have had to accept a forced exile to save their lives.

(Byron) recalled that since 1978, when the first phase of the repressive plan began, the progressive newsmen in Guatemala appeared on the black lists of the secret anticommunist army, and kidnappings and disappearances became routine. He added that, in view of the need and right of the Guatemalan people to be informed, in 1982 the Association of Democratic Newsmen of Guatemala was born. The association includes newsmen in exile, and operates in a clandestine manner within the country.

HONDURAS

NEW REVOLUTIONARY GROUP FAVORS END TO WAR

PA251838 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 20 Apr 83 p 2

[Alberto Ramos Report: National Unity Directorate of the Revolutionary Movement of Honduras: "No to Interventionist War"]

[Text] The struggle in Central America has taken a new turn with the recently founded National Unity Directorate (Direccion Nacional Unitaria -- DNU] of the Revolutionary Movement of Honduras [Movimiento Revolucionario de Honduras -- MRH], which calls for an end to the interventionist war in the region. In its first manifesto, it denounces the attacks on Nicaragua and El Salvador from Honduran territory and demands that this country "not lend itself to the U.S. Government's dangerous war games."

In fact, the unification of the MRH is an important event, which will influence the course of the Central American conflict. It has become a new retaining wall against U.S. plans to use Honduras as its base of operations against Nicaragua and against the Salvadoran revolutionary movement.

The communique issued by the Honduran DRU appeals to the various social sectors of Honduras to make a supreme and urgent effort to counter the imminent threat of war.

It charges that the attack on Nicaragua, using the Somozist forces grouped and trained by the CIA in Honduran territory," is part of a large-scale plan that has the Salvadoran crisis as its focal point and that threatens to unleash a regional war of unforseeable consequences.

"The armed struggle into which we are being dragged is not and should not be the Honduran people's war," the DNU adds. It emphatically stresses that "the workers, peasants, indeed, all Honduran working people have no reason to fight the sister peoples of El Salvador and Nicaragua." "National businessmen who are intent on overcoming the economic crisis, and officers, NCO's, and troops who are loyal to the Morazan ideals have no interest in this war either and object to serving as instruments for Reagan's interventionist plans," the document states.

It concludes by calling on all of the Honduran people to form a single front against war and in favor of peace, urging the Catholic Church to exert its moral influence in favor of the peace efforts, appealing to patriotic Honduran officers and troops not to permit the Armed Forces to be used as an instrument by imperialist interventionism and proposing that all political parties take part in "combined efforts to save the nation, which is threatened with death by the Reagan administration's plans."

The recently founded DNU of the MRH is composed of the Revolutionary Party of Central American Workers, PRTC, the Morazanist Front for the Liberation of Honduras, FMLN; the Cinchonero Peoples Liberation Movement, MPL Cinchoneros; the Lorenzo Zelaya Peoples Revolutionary Forces, FPR Lorenzo Zelaya; the United Revolutionary Movement [Movimiento de Unidad Revolucionaria] and the Communist Party of Honduras.

HANDLING OF NICARAGUAN SITUATION CRITICIZED

PA260057 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Text] On the question of international news, as well as on domestic news, there is no reason to hide the fact that the problem with Nicaragua is very serious. However, we prefer to listen to the opinion of Alfredo Landaverde, president of the Christian Democratic Party: [Begin recording] [Landaverde] I have considered it very delicate for a long time and I believe that at the international level we are losing the battle. We have to speak the truth because otherwise we will be wasting time deceiving ourselves. I would say that the national government, the Honduran Government, must call a national network to explain to the Honduran people the real reason for the conflict between Honduras and Nicaragua and the state of the situation at the world level, the truth.

Furthermore, the whole nation must be informed of how we can participate in an honorable solution for the country. This is not just a problem for President Suazo Cordova and General Alvarez Gustavo Martinez. This is a problem for every Honduran citizen.

Therefore, this is not just a problem of unloading on the commander of the armed forces and the president the issue of the country's defense, or on a foreign secretary who does not brief the country specifically; only the journalists when they ask him what he is doing.

At this moment I believe it is urgently necessary for the president of the republic to make a serious report -- national networks are used for other matters -- on the situation with Nicaragua. If it is true that the situation is as hot and delicate as foreign newspapers are saying, as well as the chief of the armed forces and the president, then it is completely incoherent and counterproductive to burden two people with this assignment. I believe that everyone should be informed; journalists, politicians, businessmen, labor leaders and others. They should be informed honestly. Furthermore, we should be asked what we think about the matter and what we believe could be done at this moment.

[Question] Why are you saying that we are losing the diplomatic battle? Don't you have confidence in the ability of our foreign secretary?

[Answer] The foreign secretary cannot solve all the problems by himself. The present world is very complex. I have traveled to the United States and South America and the campaign, the opinion about Honduras, is very negative. Furthermore, Honduras has ambassadors in many places who are not worth much and who are unable to defend the country because they are inexperienced; they are improvised ambassadors. They have no connections in those countries. Even in the United States, the flow of information from Honduras to the United States is very poor. That is, Honduras is practically isolated because it does not have an effective information system directed abroad.

In addition, since the Honduran people do not participate in this situation, when foreigners come to find what is happening, the people reply that they know nothing, that the only ones who know anything are General Alvarez and the president of the republic, and to ask them. Therefore, the foreign journalists imagine that something shady is going on here.

Therefore, it is important for the president of the republic to assume responsibility for what we are experiencing, unless it is not true that there will be a war with Nicaragua. If it is not true, then I take back everything I have said.

[Question] Do you believe that there will be war?

[Answer] It is different to say that the situation is difficult. The Nicaraguans have said that they are reaching the point at which they could force the Hondurans into a military confrontation with them because they are accusing Honduras of interfering in their domestic life. At the same time Honduras is accusing Nicaragua of interfering in the domestic affairs of all of Central America.

Therefore, let's not deceive ourselves. The situation is difficult. And for the people of the Contadora Group to have taken an active part, who are even going to visit Moscow, Havana and Washington, and for Washington to have visited Mexico, something shady is being cooked up in the area, something difficult for the people. And nothing is gained by the people not participating. What happened to us with El Salvador in 1969 could again happen. President Lopez Arellano and the group that surrounded him decided to negotiate the situation and to see what they could do. When we least expected it, we had war and the Honduran people were not prepared for that war.

They did not even have the ability to mobilize. At the last minute everyone was running around to find food, machetes, clothing. Everyone was running around like mad. This time we have been forewarned by the domestic and foreign media and we are acting without giving participation to anyone. This means that two people, General Alvarez and President Suazo Cordova, have assumed the right to believe that they are the security of the Honduran state.

[Question] When it is actually up to the Honduran people?

[Answer] It is up to the Honduran people. If the Honduran cause is just, why are the people not told what has to be done and why are the people not asked to participate? [End recording]

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA NEWS CONFERENCE ON MILITARY SITUATION

PA260342 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0140 GMT 26 Apr 83

[News Conference held by Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, and Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto at Heroes and Martyrs Room of the Government House in Managua -- live]

[Text] [Ortega] We wish to take this opportunity to address the international opinion, and very especially U.S. public opinion and the U.S. Congress. We wish to say that the Nicaraguan Government and the National Directorate of the FSLN consider the present situation as one of extreme care, of dangerous tension in the military situation of the region and as a foreshadowing of new and greater aggressions against the integrity and sovereignty of Nicaragua.

With great concern we have been observing the steps taken by the U.S. Administration to involve other countries in the development of its military atgression plans against Nicaragua in order to extend the conflict in the region.

We have conclusive proof that Costa Rican territory is being used to establish a new front of military aggression against Nicaragua. We know that a force of between 500 and 700 men is being prepared along the southern border area to carry out imminent attacks against our territory. We also know that this situation has been stimulated by the U.S. Administration without the knowledge of the Costa Rican Government with or without the consent of President Monge. We also know about the concern and effort of Costa Rican Government officials who are trying to prevent anything from interfering in the increasing efforts being made by both governments to achieve peaceful and normal relations, which are the only thing that can exist between our two sister countries and peoples.

Nevertheless, the imminent danger of the opening of a new aggressive front against our country can constitute nothing less than an act of provocation against the peace efforts that both governments have been making.

From other soutces we have information of the regrouping of close to 2,000 former Somozist guards in the camps located in Honduras across from the Nicaraguan department of Nueva Segovia. Agents of the Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, have been urging these forces to launch another counterrevolutionary invasion in the next few days. We know that in the Honduran Mosquitia territory some 1,500 men who have regrouped are preparing to attack our country in the next few days.

In addition, so far this month all records of spy flights over our territory have been broken. So far this month, 11 espionage flights have been made over our country, covering all of our national territory.

We have also confirmed that in the last few weeks there have been many U.S. military flights transporting military equipment and material from the U.S. installations in the Canal Zone to Honduras. The size of this airlift, carried out without the least effort at disguise, also confirms our information regarding a new escalation of aggression against our country.

Unscrupulously and irresponsibly, in a desperate effort to obtain a concensus in the U.S. public opinion, especially in the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Administration has unleashed a provocation campaign against our country.

In his desperation to justify his unjustifiable warmongering policy in Central America, in order to persuade the U.S. Congress, international public opinion and in an effort to spread confusion among the governments of the continent, Mr Reagan has even gone so far as to lie about the presence of Soviet missiles in Nicaragua.

We want to reject and condemn, in the most vigorous and firm manner, these dangerous provocations which might aggravate the prewar situation that the region is experiencing. The lies that the Reagan administration is telling to legitimize its mistaken policy lead us to emphatically say that the installation of Soviet missiles in Nicaragua is only true in the mind of the U.S. administration.

Our country will never become a military base for anybody. To defend our revolution, we have sought modest military aid from governments of the world, including the United States itself, which refused to give us any aid from the very beginning.

In exercising our sovereign right to obtain the means absolutely necessary to our defense, we received international cooperation, and in view of the type of aggression we are facing, we will continue to ask for cooperation from any government that sees fit to give it, regardless of its political, economic or social regime.

We are convinced that despite the provoking, spectacular and extraordinary efforts President Reagan is making, the U.S. Congress and public have understood that the only danger to the United States in Central America lies in Reagan's eagerness to identify his mistaken policy with U.S. interests.

We have denied charges that we are helping the Salvadoran guerrillas with weapons. However, we again repeat that if the United States claims that its main concern is the alleged arms traffic to El Salvador, we are willing to put their mind at ease if they give us specific proof and information to adopt pertinent measures or if they include these concerns in bilateral negotiations with Nicaragua.

We also reject the irresponsible way in which they are handling a report on the construction of a floating dock in the Pacific. They are making the absurd accusation that we are building a Soviet interoceanic canal. We want to be very firm in noting that this matter has never come up in our relations with the Soviet Union.

Nicaragua, as a sovereign state and exercising our people's legitimate right, will not only defend its revolution but will try to deepen it until it achieves the full reconstruction of the country and its social and economic development by defending its plans for nonalignment, political pluralism and a mixed economy.

We want to categorically state that despite these attacks, the process to institutionalize the Sandinist revolution continues and will continue. Our political will to continue developing the revolution along the lines already known, remains unchanged.

The State Council, through its respective commissions, will continue to work on the bill for political parties and the electoral law that will lead us to comply with that which we decided with our people: to hold elections in 1985. The international prestige of our young revolutionary state rests on our people's indestructible strength. This behavior is an international line of conduct for the Nicaraguan Government.

As a serious gesture to reaffirm our desire for peace, we recently attended the second round of consultations with the Contadora foreign ministers. We are not satisfied with all the results obtained there. However, Contadora is so far the main regional effort for peace in Central America and we will continue to strengthen this initiative.

We have categorically stated that the efficient solution for problems faced by some of our countries, particularly the military invasion against Nicaragua, require serious negotiations by the U.S. Government which encourages, leads, coordinates and arms the Somozist counterrevolutionary army that is attacking us.

In these difficult moments for the region, we again reiterate Nicaragua's position, a position we have consistently maintained for more than 3 years; in other words, our willingness to discuss the normalization of our relations with the U.S. Government.

The Nicaraguan people will remain in their best fighting disposition in the face of these new plans of aggression. We tell the international community that we will continue to search for peace for the sake of our country's defense. However, if the U.S. administration imposes a path of war which is even more cruel and hard, our government and the FSLN National Directorate will give all the arms to the people in order to defend, at any cost, Nicaragua's irreversible revolution.

[Question] (Marcos Pides) of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Commander Daniel Ortega, you said that a new invasion could take place in the next few days and that this time it will be from the southern border. Can you be more specific about the number of days and the real possibilities of this new counterrevolutionary force?

[Answer] We have solid information in this regard. We have proof and the information we have gathered through people directly involved in these actions give strength to our statements.

[Question] (Oscar Alvarez) of Radio Sandino. Commander Ortega, will this situation which you have just described as a very serious one for Central America require that the UN Security Council do something in response to this regional situation?

[Answer] Regarding the Security Council, we must state that it is a UN body that we bear in mind in the face of these situations.

[Question] (Jose Saldua) of UNOMASUNO of Mexico. Commander, I would like to know if Pastora is leading the counterrevolutionary forces that are operating on the Costa Rican border with Nicaragua and if the southern forces are linked and coordinated with the counterrevolutionaries of the north?

[Answer] We can state that there is already coordination among the Somozist guardsmen, the groups of Pastora, Fernando Chamorro and Alfonso Robelo who is part of Pastora's group. The groups of Pastora and Chamorro along with the Somozist guardsmen are carrying out this work. They are making preparations in Costa Rica to launch future actions coordinated with the Somozist guardsmen who would launch their actions from Honduras. The Somozist guardsmen are regrouping in the Honduran border area.

[Question] (Juan Quinonez) of ABC Television of the United States. What proof do you have of the training of these 500 or 600 men in Costa Rica. Is there some proof you can present?

[Answer] We have proof and we are going to present it in the next few days.

[Question] [name indistinct]. Commander, I understand that Nicaragua and Costa Rica reached a nonaggression agreement in talks they held. Is some mechanism being planned to denounce and prevent this situation?

[Answer] We have explained that the Costa Rican Government is not involved in this situation. Instead, Costa Rican territory is being used to prepare and launch this aggression. Thank you, gentlemen journalists.

D'ESCOTO ON REAGAN SPEECH, REGIONAL ISSUES

PA240431 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0315 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Managua, 22 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto said here today that "Honduras is terrified of a bilateral dialogue with Nicaragua." Foreign Minister D'Escoto attributed this "terror" to the "feeling of guilt that Honduras has, and its fear of talking about the Somozist camps."

The minister gave a statement to the press at Augusto C. Sandino International Airport on his arrival from Panama, where he attended the meetings of the Contadora Group with other foreign ministers of the area.

D'Escoto said that Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica "refused to hold a bilateral dialogue" with him despite the fact the Nicaragua expressed its willingness to hold the meeting.

"Psychologically, (Paz Barnica) does not seem ready to discuss the problems of the two countries and Honduran complicity with the U.S. policy," the Nicaraguan foreign minister added. He recalled that through letters the Honduran Government has denied the existence of anti-Sandinist camps in Honduran territory.

"However," he said, "I have spoken with U.S. and European reporters who have been to those camps, and there are films and video cassettes made by reporters who accompanied the counterrevolutionaries during the invasion."

The Sandinist minister reiterated that even though Nicaragua is interested in resolving regional problems, such as the reactivation of the Central American Common Market, the main subject that should interest everyone is the subject of damaged relations between Honduras and Nicaragua.

Answering questions from reporters, D'Escoto commented on the announcement made by the White House that on 27 April President Ronald Reagan will deliver a speech on U.S. policy in Central America. "If he (Reagan) is going to speak about his policy, the truth is that we cannot expect anything that will encourage a bilateral dialogue (between Honduras and Nicaragua), because his policy is antidialogue and pro-war," the minister said.

"Reagan," he added, "believes that here (in Nicaragua) he can impose his will by force. Of course he will in no way impose his will, because here we defend our sovereignty."

"If Reagan's speech is going to be on Central America, we could write it for him. We can explain his policy because we are quite aware of it," D'Escoto stressed.

In concluding, D'Escoto agreed with the foreign ministers that forming the "Contadora Group" that the meeting held this week in Panama City achieved the objectives set by the Venezuelan, Colombian, Panamanian and Mexican foreign ministers. The objectives of the meeting were to identify the subjects that should be discussed on a bilater basis and those that should be discussed on a multilateral basis.

MINISTRY SENDS SEVERAL PROTEST NOTES TO HONDURAS

PA251802 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Text] This weekend the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry released several protest notes sent to the Honduran Government because of mortar attacks launched from Honduran territory by Somozist mercenaries in the last few days on areas close to Nicaragua's border posts.

The notes, sent to Honduran Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barnica, indicate that at 0900 and at 1400 on Friday, 22 April, Poza Redonda, located 14 km northeast of Jalapa, was attacked twice with mortar fire.

The protest adds that attacks on this site have been taking place since 21 April, when the counterrevolutionaries fired 47 81-mm mortar shells in a 5-hour period, wounding two border guards.

The Foreign Ministry also reported that the town of Waspma, in northern Zelaya, was the target of attacks from Honduras. In addition, it reported three acts of provocation carried out by Honduran Coast Guard boats against two Sandinist Navy patrol boats, which were attacked on 20 April at Los Farallones after the Honduran boats had entered Nicaraguan waters in the Gulf of Fonseca. During the attack, the Honduran Coast Guard boats were reinforced by a Honduran Air Force Super Mystere airplane.

BRIEFS

FRG DONATION -- Horst Heubaum, FRG ambassador to Nicaragua, said this morning that the FRG will donate more than $5 million in various goods to the Nicaraguan Government and people. The donation includes $2.2 million in equipment for the National Census and Statistics Institute and $3 million in insecticide and equipment for the Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform Ministry. This will be used to fight the disease affecting cotton production. The ambassador added that 80 FRG professionals are presently in Nicaragua working with the government. [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 22 Apr 83 PA]

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CONDEMNS ATTACKS ON NICARAGUA

PA241705 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] The People's Government National Assembly of Cuba has denounced the resurgence of the provocations and military aggression against Nicaragua, which are part of the strategy of U.S. imperialism in the area. In a communique released in Havana the Cuban parliamentarians stress that the Nicaraguan people are again experiencing in their own flesh and blood the effects of struggling relentlessly for their total sovereignty and national independence. The communique notes that this critical situation caused by the regionalization of the conflict may lead to war in Central America.

The document adds that the government of Ronald Reagan organizes, finances, arms and trains Somozist guardsmen. Supported by sectors of the Honduran Government and Army, these guardsmen stage military actions causing death and suffering to the Nicaraguan working people. The Honduran Army's recent attacks on Nicaraguan border posts are the prelude to broader and more elaborate military intervention, the parliamentarians' communique adds. The National Assembly concludes by expressing its solidarity with the search for a negotiated political solution to the conflict in Central America and the Caribbean, and by expressing its support for the efforts and proposals made to this effect by the Governments of Mexico, Venezuela, Panama, Colombia, France, and Spain.

COMMENTARY ON SALVADORAN MINISTER'S CHARGE

FL221745 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1245 GMT 22 Apr 83

[International commentary by Jose Fernandez Vilela of the Revista de la Manana program staff and PRENSA LATINA commentator Javier Rodriguez]

[Excerpt] [Fernandez Vilela] The recent changes in the Salvadoran military high command are a result of the concern of the Slavadoran reactionary regime, and of Washington as well, at the growing progress of the Salvadoran guerrilla movement, which cannot be detained. They are also a clear sign of the struggles that are breaking up the military command of Alvaro Magana' government. They are, of course, a desperate attempt by Washington and the Salvadoran reactionaries to gain control over the events in the country.

The new defense minister, General Eugenio Vides Casanova, who was promoted to general only yesterday, is a representative of the ultraright and terrorist sectors of the Salvadoran Armed Forces. He is related to one of the famous 14 families, which have had political and military control of El Salvador for many decades -- in fact since the beginning of the century. In addition, he is a notorious assassin who has commanded the National Guard, the most repressive of all Salvadoran organizations, although it is difficult to determine which is the most repressive among Slavadoran organizations. The qualities of Vides make him the right man for Washington to lead the Slavadoran Armed Forces at this time.

[Rodriguez] I believe, Vilela, that the changes that are taking place on the highest Salvadoran military level are part of a new maneuver which the U.S. Government is trying to develop, in view of the truly desperate situation it is facing in El Salvador. It is in fact, an attempt to save something that cannot be saved, to prop up a tottering regime and maintain a military structure which is in decay, not only because of the passage of time but also because of the constant defeats which the Salvadoran army has suffered on the battlefield.

It has been attempted to make the change of defense minister -- General Jose Guillermo Garcia's replacement with Vides Casanova -- appear as a change in the country, or at least as the beginning of a change in the country and the military structure in order to leave the road open to a different group of military men who would carry on the war against the guerrillas as of now. There is really no such change; it is in fact a question of the same crowd headed by someone else. The intention is to make it appear as if the unity of the Armed Forces would be restored through Garcia's departure, because he was strongly criticized by groups within the Army itself and also publicly by U.S. Government spokesmen. It was said that Garcia was weak; that he was unable to win successes over the guerrilla, and the idea was to make him into a kind of scapegoat for the critical situation in El Salvador and to make people believe that the situation would improve with the appointment of a new military commander. But the disagreements are very deep within the Salvadoran military hierarchy, because there is a real power struggle among the Salvadoran military leaders, and this reality cannot be covered by the fact that Vides Casanova takes charge of the Defense Ministry and that the U.S. spokesmen are now outdoing themselves to praise a man who has even been directly accused of being the murderer of the four U.S. nuns who were killed in El Salvador by the National Guard, the corps that he commanded, in 1980. This murder has, of course, not been cleared up and it has had a deep impact on the U.S. public

FIRST COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH LIBYA

FL212050 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1933 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] The first cooperation protocol between Cuba and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah for 1983-1985 in the economic, educational and cultural fields has been signed in this capital.

The documents were signed by Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and Hector Rodriquez Llompart, minister-president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, and Muhammad Ahmad al-Manqush, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for housing.

In the educational field, the agreement provides for the exchange of professors, students and general information on the systems, educational programs and study plans between Cuban and Libyan universities and scientific research centers. Similarly, in the cultural field, Cuba and Libya will exchange soloists, artistic groups, expositions and documentation between museums.

CEREMONY COMMEMORATES BAY OF PIGS VICTORY

FL201305 Havana Domstic Television Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Text] The example of Playa Giron is the best stimulus for us to do our duties at this time, Brigadier General Enrique Carreras said at the national ceremony in commemoration of the historic victory in April 1961. The ceremony was held at Jaguey Grande in Matanzas Province.

Thousands of rural school students, militiamen and the people in general from that municipality participated in the ceremony, which was attended by Politburo member Jorge Risquet, who presided over it; Maj Gen Sixto Batista, alternate member of the Politburo; Esteban Lazo, alternate member of the Central Committee and first party secretary in Matanzasi and other leaders.

Carreras said in his speech that the future of socialism in the continent was at stake at Playa Giron and our decision to build it up at any cost was confirmed there.

He said that imperialism had never before shown such political blindness and our people had as never before, demonstrated their determination to fight to the last man for the defense of the fatherland.

Inspired by the example of the heros and martyrs of Playa Giron, Brig Gen Enrique Carreras stated, the Cuban people, with their proverbial determination, are engaged in turning reverse into victory in the face of the serious economic difficulties that the country is experiencing. He concluded by urging the people to prepare themselves better for defense, to be more effective, save every possible resource and to be the worthy standard bearers of the cause of internationalism and socialism.

LEZCANO HEADS DELEGATION TO HELSINKI MEETING

FL211754 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Jorge Lezcano, vice president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, has departed for Helsinki, Finland, heading a delegation of the executive branch of the government. Lezcano heads the Cuban parliamentary delegation, which will attend the preparatory meeting of the (?60th) Interparliamentary Conference. Delegations from more than 90 countries' parliaments will be represented at the meeting. The participants in the meeting, scheduled for 24 to 29 April, will examine four topics dealing with the adoption of concrete measures for the sixth UNCTAD meeting, its role in the promotion of the process of decolonization and the political, economic, social and cultural rights of ethnic groups. The election of the new president of the Interparliamentary Council, whose 132d edition [as heard] will begin on 29 April, will also be taken up.

MARCOS LAGE CONCLUDES 5-DAY VISIT TO HUNGARY

FL230040 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] Budapest -- Marcos Lage, Cuban minister of the steelworking industry -- SIME, departed the Hungarian capital after a 5-day official visit. Lage was seen off at the airport by Andras Gabor, deputy minister of industry, Jorge Rodriguez Grillo, charge d'affaires at the Cuban Embassy in Hungary, and other officials. During his stay in Hungary, Marcos Lage held talks with his counterpart and host, Lajos Mehes, to examine the prospects for expanding traditional ties of cooperation in the manufacture of buses, telephone switchboards and medical equipment.

DELEGATION ARRIVES IN KABUL FOR ANNIVERSARY

FL251710 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1502 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Text] Antonio Perez Herrero, alternate member of the party Politburo, arrived in Kabul today at the head of an official delegation from our country to attend the celebration of the fifth anniversary of the Afghan revolution. Perez Herrero and those accompanying him were warmly welcomed by a group headed by [name indistinct], alternate member of the Politburo of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. Delegations from more than 20 countries and international organizations have already arrived in Kabul, invited by the Afghan Government for the occasion of the festivities which will begin tomorrow to mark the fifth anniversary of the victory of the Afghan revolution.

DELEGATION GOES TO MOSCOW FOR CEMA MEETING

FL251720 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Text] A delegation from the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party, headed by Lionel Soto, member of the Central Committee Secretariat, is traveling to Moscow to participate in the meeting of secretaries of communist and labor parties and the permanent representatives from the governments of the CEMA member countries.

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR UN CONFERENCE ON NAMIBIA

PA251402 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Flavio Bravo, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, left for France at the head of a Cuban delegation to attend the UN conference on Namibia. The event will involve discussion of world solidarity with the struggle of the Namibian people, led by SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization], and will review the obstacles that have prevented that African country's independence. The conference is being sponsored by the United Nations and is endorsed by the Nonaligned Movement.

MEXICAN EDUCATION SECRETARY ARRIVES IN HAVANA

FL211550 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1430 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Mexican Public Education Secretary Jesus Reyes Heroles arrived in this country last night at the head of a delegation formed by experts from the main Mexican educational and cultural institutions. He was received at Jose Marti Airport by Jose Ramon Fernandez, minister of education and vice president of the Council of Ministers; Rafael Almeida, vice minister of culture, and Lic Rodolfo Echeverria Ruiz, ambassador of Mexico to this country. The two parties will be entrusted with the signing of the program of cultural and educational exchange between Cuba and Mexico for a 3-year period.

Departure of Mexicans

FL251920 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Text] Mexican Public Education Secretary Jesus Reyes Heroles and the delegation accompanying him during his visit to this country have returned to their homeland after participating in the sixth session of the Cuban-Mexican Joint Intergovernmental Commission for Educational and Cultural Cooperation.

Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers and education minister, and Mexican Ambassador to Cuba Rodolfo Echeverria went to Havana airport to say farewell to the distinguished guests.

During the visit to Cuba, Reyes Heroles and Jose Ramon Fernandez signed a program of educational and cultural exchange valid until 1985. The distinguished visitor was received by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Council of State and Ministers.

ANTIGUA

ACLM'S HECTOR ARRESTED, FREED AFTER LIBYAN TRIP

FL230010 Bridgetown CANA in English 2251 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, April 22, CANA -- Chairman of the leftist Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement (ACLM), Tim Hector, was today released on 3,000 dollars (one E.C. dollr; 37 cents U.S.) bail after he was arrested on a bench warrant for failing to appear in court last week. Hector was taken into custody last night shortly after he had returned home from a trip to Libya on undisclosed business.

Hector was due to appear before chief magistrate Colvin Sobers on April 13 for the start of a preliminary enquiry into a charge against him under the libel and slander act, but the court heard that he was out of the country at the time. The charge relates to an article published in February by the party's newspaper, the OUTLET. Hector is editor of the paper and was recently fined 100 dollars for printing the newspaper without a bond on August 20 last year.

GRENADA

BERNARD COARD ATTACKS REAGAN, DEFENDS AIRPORT

PA250203 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2242 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Speech by Grenadian Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard at the closing event of the (Jeremiah Richardson) Defense of the Homeland maneuver in St Georges -- live]

[Text] Comrade leader of our party, Comrade Maurice Bishop, other members of the leadership of our party and government, comrades of the Revolutionary Armed Forces:

What we have observed over the last 6 weeks, comrades... [change thought] if we think about it, it was exactly 6 weeks ago that Ronald Reagan launched his first attack on us. As we know, the attack was started 3 months before that, by different of his spokesmen, his vice president, his secretary of state, his secretary for defense, and various other of his clique. But the President himself launched his attack on us from the 10th of March -- comrades will remember that -- and he repeated the attack on the 23d of March.

But what is very significant, comrades, is that when he attacked us on the 10th of March, he said we had naval bases in Grenada, he said we had air bases in Grenada, and all kinds of other sophisticated military installations. By the time he spoke on the 23d of March, 2 weeks later, the naval bases had disappeared, because too many American citizens had visited our country in the last 12 months; too many American journalists had been to our country in the last 12 months. And many of them began to write articles in the newspapers and to put our stories on the television that were in fact causing Reagan a great deal of embarrassment, and some of them were even calling him a liar directly to his face. And as a result of that he began to retreat.

That was the fact, that more and more of people, our Grenadian people in the United States as well, and our people right here at home began to respond vigorously to attacks of Reagan and the lies of Reagan.

So, by the time he attacked us the second time, on the 23d of March, he did not mention naval base at all, and on that second speech he didn't talk about air base anymore, he talked about airfield; and a few days after that, he got his people to move from airfield to airstrip. And then they issued a photograph, a satellite photo of our international airport of Point Salines -- flying satellites over our country to take a photograph of Point Salines Airport, when anybody, including even jackass Reagan, could ride over a jackass like himself, a donkey, and go down to Point Salines Airport and take a photograph of the airport. He don't have to go in no satellite to take the airport. But the whole idea of taking a satellite photograph was to give the American people and the world the impression that the international airport is somewhere with barbed wire fence all around, and nobody can't go there, is off-limits, so the only way you could get a photo of it, is if you in a satellite, so much miles up in the sky, and you take a photo of the airport. That is the level of dishonesty of this crazy man.

But more than that, he not only does he take a satellite photo of the international airport, but even doctors the photograph, so that the terminal building is not found in the airport at all; that big terminal building that's being constructed at the airport site does not show in the photograph that Reagan gave to the American and the world press. Why? Because why you are building a military airport you don't build a big terminal building like that; you only build a big terminal building like that when you are building it for tourists.

So he leaves that out. And you know what he leaves out too, comrades, that a number of people have been pointing out? He leaves out the fact that at the very end of the airport runway, at the very end, inches away from one end of the runway, you have a medical school with 700 citizens of the United States, peacefully going to school there and doing their studies to become doctors every single day of every week; that if he was to put that in the photograph, just like he have a section he say storage area... [changes thought] what he mean by storage area, he talking about fuel tanks to refuel the planes that will land at the airport when our airport is open.

He have another section in his photograph he say Cuban barracks. That's where our Cuban and Grenadian workers live at the airport site. By calling it barracks, he wants people to get the impression that is soldiers. But when he start to get more licks -- because American journalists, again they say: But we have been there; we speak to the workers there; don't come with this line -- he change the line too. So you see a second photograph. And this second photograph he say: Cuban houses. He stop calling them barracks; he call it houses.

So naval base disappear, airbase disappear, airfield disappear, Cuban barracks disappear, and down the line, one by one, all the lies disappear. And the latest set of propaganda, which is the point I want to draw to your attention here this evening, comrades, the latest set of propaganda coming from the American Government: In the last 2 weeks, they have abandoned completely that military propaganda line, they have abandoned it for the moment, and instead they come with a new line now.

First of all they issue this statement by their ambassador to the OAS in Washington, D.C. a guy called Middendorf issued this statement on behalf of the Reagan Government, and then this was followed up, this was followed up a few days ago, by one of their messenger boys, their errand boys, a joker by the name of Flower in the U.S. Embassy in Barbados, who puts out the same kind of statement like the first statement. And what does the statement say?

This statement says: The United States is prepared to have normal relations with Grenada only if Grenada stops crushing the human rights of the people of Grenada and restores democracy to Grenada like under Gairy; and secondly that Grenada carries the kind of foreign policy that they want. In other words, that they are in fact unhappy with our foreign policy, and they are unhappy about our domestic policy, and unless we change that, they are not prepared to have normal relations with us. In other words, naval base out the window, airbase out the window, airfield out the window, Cuban barracks out the window, all the lies and propaganda lines out the window, because too many people inside America have exposed them as liars.

And of course our comrade leader was on American television on five occasions, making them look even more like liars than they are. And our comrade Whiteman also was in the United States for 2 weeks, and there he was able to speak to the American people in meetings, in rallies, on the radio and the T.V. And as a result of this, they have abandoned that line for now; they will come back with this of course, but for now the heat is too great, so they have abandoned all the military lines, and they come now to the question of democracy, human rights and foreign policy.

First of all, comrades, first of all, comrades: No country, no country under international law, no country has the right to dictate to another country what its domestic and foreign policy will be. No country has the right to do that. But I want to just draw to your attention a few facts, which are not published very often, if at all, in the media in our region, but facts which our Grenadian and Caribbean people should know about, and that is that unfortunately, unfortunately the United States is the last country to talk about human rights or democracy, because they don't know what that is, and they don't know how to spell it in that Reagan Administration. First of all, Reagan was elected by only a quarter of the American people. One quarter of the American people voted for Reagan in the last election. Seventy-four percent of the American people -- three fourths of the American people -- either voted against Reagan or stayed home. Now this is not well known. So here you have this idiot who only got one fourth of the American people to vote for him ranting and raving and threatening to drop nuclear bombs on people all over the world.

Secondly, for the last several decades in America they have only been able to get half the American people to come out and vote, despite all the propaganda on radio and TV and newspapers. Either through rigging the election laws, as well as by other forms of trickery, as well as because the American people have become one more fed-up of tweedledee and tweedledum, for one reason or another, half the American public never goes to vote in presidential elections. So that whole situation there is a load of joke.

Suddenly their own ambassador to the United Nations a few years ago, Andrew Young is on record while he was ambassador making the point that the United States has thousands of political prisoners in their jails throughout the United States -- people in jail for years without trial. And we are saying the time has come for America to release the political prisoners, the thousands of political prisoners, the black people, the Indian people, the poor white people, who are in the jails of the United States -- time to let them out of jail. O cowboy Reagan, let them out of jail! Time to let the American people have a chance to vote in elections in America. Stop this business about electing a so-called president with 25 percent of the votes.

And also comrades, I want to draw to your attention something that is also not published in the press, and most people don't know about, and it is this: That when you think of this world, and there are over 155 countries in the world today, the country that has broken more treaties, you know, more agreements, more treaties that they have signed, than any other country in the history of mankind, is the United States of America. As you know, they wiped out the American Indians; they literally wiped out the population that used to live in America before these people came there. They wiped them out, they poisoned them, they stabbed them, they killed them. And time, after time, after time these butchers now represented by Mr. Reagan and company and his gang, they broke treaties that they signed with different American Indian nations. Over the last 200 years of American history they broke 336 treaties that is signed with the American Indian nations -- 336 treaties. In other words, as fast as they sign a treaty, they break it, so that the U.S. Government, different U.S. Governments over the last 200 years of American history, have the reputation of being the country that has broken more treaties than any other country in the history of mankind. That is the country that wants to lecture us about democracy, human rights and foreign policy.

Let them talk about their links with South Africa, let them talk about their links with Pinochet in Chile, let them talk about their links with Papa Doc and Baby Doc Duvalier in Haiti, let them talk about their links with that fascist junta in El Salvador that has killed over 40,000 Salvadoran people in the last few years. Let them talk about the fascist in Guatemala, the present government that they are arming and supporting, the Rios Montt regime, that is killing 5,000 and 6,000 Guatemalan citizens, men, women and children, every week. Let them talk about that, and about their foreign policy and their relations with these regimes. America only has good relations with the latrine countries of the world -- you have to face that fact, comrades -- only the latrine countries of the world. Think of the most despicable countries in the world, think of the governments in the world that are the most fascist, that kill thousands of people every day, like Pinochet, like Duvalier, like Rios Montt, and so on. Think of all those governments in every part of the world, whether they are in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean -- think of the world's nastiest, the most brutal governments in the world -- and one thing you can be sure: America is financing them, arming them, supporting them, and embracing them. This is the government that wants to lecture us about foreign policy.

But what is happening comrades, is that Reagan is getting just like Gairy. Reagan is not just a liar, he is a boldface, [word indistinct] liar, and whatever he is planning to do, he likes to accuse other people of it, just like Gairy. So for example, at a time when he says Grenada have naval bases, and airbases and all kinds of sophisticated military installations, at the time he is saying that, and at the time he is saying that Grenada is a threat to his national security, Reagan has 77 battleships in our waters in the Caribbean, and 300 fighter planes. In other words, when the thief and the crook is about to strike other countries, he accuses those countries of being a threat to him, so that he accuses Nicaragua and Grenada of being a threat to American security, and within days of doing that, they invade Nicaragua. This is the kind of technique.

So, comrades, we have to be on our guard; we have to be on our guard. And we have to recognize that what is happening to Reagan is that he is becoming discredited, not only in the region and the world, but right inside the United States, among the American people.

And our task is to continue to build our process, our task is to continue to build our economy, to build our people's democracy, to build our capacity to defend this country. That is our task.

And while Reagan runs his mouth, let Reagan understand, and let his other cowboys understand that there is a difference between talking foolishness in Washington, D.C., and landing on Grand Anse. There is a big difference between the two. And comrades, we must keep our eyes open, because they attack Nicaragua, they invade Nicaragua; they attack Grenada, they would like to invade Grenada. We have to watch out, because whenever you see Reagan open his mouth and attack Suriname and say Suriname is a threat to their national security, you know is because they having battleships and planes ready to interfere with Suriname.

You know whenever they launch that attack, is because they organizing mercenaries to invade Suriname. In other words, whenever they are preparing to steal something, they accuse the other person of stealing. Whenever they are about to kill, they accuse the other person of killing, and when they are the ones that are militarizing the region with their battleships and their planes, they accuse others of militarizing the region. That is the tactic. We know that well from all the years of Gairism. We have 28 years of experience in that tactic. Always accuse the enemy of that which you are about to do. That is the tactic of Reagan the madman, Reagan the liar, Reagan the cowboy.

But we watching, and we waiting, and we preparing, and we getting ready, and in the meantime, we moving forward. And no amount of propaganda, no amount of threat, and no amount of battleships in our waters, and planes in our airspace is going to frighten the people of Grenada, because we are used to that. We are used to fighting that struggle. Our people come out of the tradition of [word indistinct] and in that tradition, comrades, our people are used to fighting imperialism. And that is why, comrades, in this maneuver which we have just experienced, we have seen the fighting spirit of our people go to a higher extent, to a greater length. We have seen without exaggeration the largest maneuver, the biggest maneuver, the largest turnout for any maneuver, and the most well-executed maneuver in the history of our country. And we have to congratulate all the comrades of the People's Revolutionary Militia, and the People's Revolutionary Army, police, [word indistinct] and all other branches of the defense forces. [applause] A tremendous, tremendous achievement.

And we hope that their satellites were able to get good pictures. We hope there was no cloud cover to interfere. We hope they had good photographs, because they will understand that is not easy, is not easy to trespass, to trespass and get away with it. Comrades, the important thing that we must recognize is that when we leave here today, comrades, we must maintain what we have done this weekend. The work which we have done in the last 6 weeks, of mobilization, the motorcade we had on 13 March, the mobilization of our minister, the militia trainings on Wednesdays, and Thursdays, and Fridays and Saturdays in different parts of the country, the maneuvers which we have just had over the last 3 days, comrades; this tremendous work which has been done, this tremendous creativity and energy which you have put into your work in the last several days and weeks, we must not fall back, we must not lose that, we must use that momentum to go forward, to go forward to higher things.

Several hundred comrades have joined the militia over the last few weeks for the first time ever, in addition to all those that were there before. That is a tremendous development, and I want you to give a round of applause, applause for all those comrades who have joined the militia for the first time.

It means that the struggle is going forward, it means that we are deepening our roots, it means that our process is becoming more and more consolidated and more and more invincible. [applause]

And so comrades, the important thing is this: Let us continue to build to higher heights, let us continue to go forward, let us continue not to fall back, but to go forward to higher things. Le the next maneuver be even bigger and even better. Let the training session during the week be model. Let our training at the workplaces develop into a powerful force of the militia in every workplace.

If this maneuver in honor of Jeremiah Richardson and in defense of our homeland against imperialist attack is to have any meaning, then it must not end in another few minutes time, it must be the beginning of greater things. It must be the beginning of even more comrades in the militia. It must be the beginning of even more of our working class joining the militia in their working places. It must be the beginning of all of you coming regularly to your Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday training, depending on which part of the country you are from.

Are you going to take your militia training seriously? I can't here you, are you going to take it seriously? Are we going to move forward? Are we going to get to higher-up your preparation? Are we going to make you next maneuver bigger and better? [Crowd shouts "Yes" after each question] [Crowd answers long live after the next expressions]

Long live the People's Revolutionary Militia of Free Grenada! Long live the working class of Free Grenada! Long live the peasants of Free Grenada! Long live the women and youth of Free Grenada! Long live all the working people of Free Grenada! Long live the commander and chief, comrade Maurice Bishop, for ever and ever! Thank you.